



No. 65,768

MONDAY DECEMBER 23 1996

TODAY
10P

FROM SCROOGE TO SCARGILL
HARD TIMES AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Business News
PAGE 34

FANTASY CABINET
Play the political game
PAGE 14

13 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT
IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN
Simon Barnes sees Peter Shilton bring in the millennium
PAGE 21

TODAY
10P

CHRISTMAS WEEK IN THE TIMES

MONDAY
THE COST OF A FAMILY CHRISTMAS
Page 5
PLUS Matthew Parris, Page 14 and Melvyn Bragg, Page 12

CHRISTMAS EVE
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
Robin Young puts a price on true love

CHRISTMAS DAY
In common with all the national newspapers, *The Times* will not be published on Christmas Day

BOXING DAY
NIGELLA LAWSON
on the great British nurse

FILMS
Anthony Hopkins plays Picasso

PLUS
Dr Thomas Stuttaford's medical briefing
Jumbo sports crossword and guide to the day's play
Nationwide sales round-up

FRIDAY
POP
David Sinclair's review of the pop year

SATURDAY
Jonathan Meades's best restaurants of 1996 in the **MAGAZINE**

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 AND DIRECTORY

Car bomb spells end to loyalist ceasefire

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE loyalist ceasefire appeared to be in ruins last night after a notorious republican was injured by a booby-trap car bomb in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast.

Eddie Copeland, who was named in Parliament in 1994 as an alleged IRA godfather, suffered a wound to his right leg in the explosion as he started his car outside his mother's house yesterday lunchtime. He was taken to hospital, where his condition was described as stable.

No group admitted responsibility for the attack, but it appeared to have been carried out by loyalist terrorists in retaliation for the IRA's attempt to murder two policemen in the heart of Belfast's main children's hospital on Friday night.

David Irvine, of the Progressive Unionist Party — the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force — voiced fears that the bombing was "potentially the beginning of a spiral of violence."

The bomb had been planted under the driver's seat and left a 12in x 18in hole. Joe Lee, who lives next door to Mr Copeland's mother in Ladbroke Drive, ran to help after hearing a loud bang. "He was in a bad way," he said. "His leg was all open, but he was gesturing: 'I'm OK, I'm OK.'"

Mr Copeland, 25, is loathed by loyalists, who refer to him as "Steady Eddie", and is a prime target for the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force, which are both active in the Shankill area near by.

In October 1993, he was shot by a soldier while attending the wake of an IRA terrorist who died in the Shankill Road bombing which killed nine Protestants.

Trooper Andrew Clarke, of the 9th/12th Lancers, who was subsequently jailed for ten years for attempted murder of Mr Copeland, told police that he had opened fire because he was frustrated at seeing terrorist suspects taunting soldiers. Mr Copeland's father, John, was shot dead by troops in the same district in October, 1971.

Bobby Lavery, a Sinn Fein

councillor in North Belfast, said yesterday that Mr Copeland was a well-known republican supporter. "He makes no bones about it. Because of that there are quite a few people within the so-called security forces who hate him. The people here believe that this is a result of that."

The attack came after loyalist terrorists said that they were likely to resume violence in retaliation for the IRA's shooting of two policemen guarding the Democratic Unionist Nigel Doods as he visited his six-year-old son at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children on Friday night.

That was the first attack on a non-military target in Northern Ireland since the end of the IRA ceasefire in February and one UDA leader from West Belfast told a Sunday newspaper: "There will definitely be a response to this. The days of loyalists getting patted on the head and told they are good boys for keeping the ceasefire are over."

But John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, condemned both attacks and said that those involved should pause for reflection. "Violence can so easily spiral out of control," he said.

Malcolm Moss, the Northern Ireland Office Minister, also expressed outrage at the violence, saying: "There is no difference between the people who used guns in a children's hospital on Friday night and those who planted the device in a man's car just a short distance away. Violence in any form is evil and it is the duty of all community leaders and anyone with influence to use their authority to stop it."

The Combined Loyalist Military Command, the umbrella group for the three main loyalist terrorist groups which declared the ceasefire in October 1994, will meet imminently to discuss tactics. The bomb yesterday may have been foretaste of a full-scale resumption of violence, or simply a warning shot to the IRA.

Dangerous months, page 2



The England batsman Nick Knight walking off after England came within one run of victory in the first Test against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo yesterday. It was the first time that the scores had finished level in a drawn match. Pages 19, 20

Freed hostages call for siege compromise

Lima: Thousands of Peruvians yesterday demonstrated in support of a compromise between President Fujimori and the Marxist rebels holding more than 360 hostages in the Japanese Ambassador's residence (Gabriella Gammari writes).

Protesters, including dozens of freed hostages, demanded a peaceful solution. After marching to the residence, many promised to stage a vigil until the hostages are released.

The march seems to have been triggered by Señor Fujimori's remarks on Saturday ruling out any deal with the rebels.

Demands rejected, page 7

Catholic Church 'will not take bishop back'

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

RODERICK WRIGHT, former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, will never be allowed to return to a Roman Catholic Church post in Scotland, even if he repents, gives up Kathleen MacPhee, his divorced lover, and provides support for his illegitimate son by another woman, according to the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, the Most Rev Keith O'Brien.

The Archbishop, who will help in choosing a replacement for Mr Wright, said: "Anyone can say they are sorry. As Christians, we believe in forgiveness, and I am sure Christ will forgive Roddy Wright. But, with regard to a

public role in the church — certainly not in Scotland."

Yesterday, speaking publicly for the first time on the subject, William MacPhee, said he was preparing to spend Christmas alone with his three children, adding that his former wife had not spoken to her daughter since she fled Fort William to set up home with Mr Wright.

Joanne Whibley, the woman who had Mr Wright's son 15 years ago, said she now no longer had any expectation he would take any fatherly responsibility for the boy.

Abandoned children, page 6

Record City fees make millionaires

Fees earned by City dealmakers will top the £1 billion mark for the first time this year. Bonuses will create a raft of millionaires.

The total value of takeovers masterminded by the City in 1996 will not match last year's but the fees income will be larger because of the complexity of several big deals. The bonanza is likely to continue into the new year. Page 36

Gingrich risks his job by confessing

Newt Gingrich was fighting to save his job as Speaker after admitting, after two years of denials, that he had broken ethics rules of the House of Representatives.

A subcommittee agreed he had brought discredit on the House by using tax-exempt funds for political purposes. Page 5

£700m millennium project has only weeks to be rescued

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY and Labour leaders were warned yesterday that they have only weeks to settle a political battle that threatens to scupper plans for the Millennium Exhibition.

The chief executive who last week resigned from handling the £700 million project issued a clear warning that private companies would reject the scheme unless

there is swift agreement on funding. "The programme is extremely tight. It is going to be necessary for there to be clarity in the first two to three weeks of January," said Barry Hartop, who resigned as chief executive of Millennium Central, the private company charged with setting up the business plan for the exhibition.

He also suggested that the Government had been mistaken in forming a private company to set in place the outline business plan for the exhibition. Business-

es needed to know that any losses would be underwritten by the Government before committing themselves to backing the event, to be held in Greenwich.

Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, and Jack Cunningham, Labour's shadow National Heritage Secretary, are wrangling over the details of the underwriting package that is likely to require an extra £200 million of lottery funding. Currently, £200 million is expected to come from the Millennium Commis-

sion, funded by the lottery. £150 million from the private sector and some £30 million from other income, including ticket sales to the enormous domed exhibition which is intended to be the centrepiece of the celebrations.

Roger Freeman, the public service minister, who was given the job of sorting out the BSE beef crisis earlier this year, and Jennifer Page, chief executive of the Millennium Commission, look set to take over the running of the project.

Buying *The Times* overseas:
Australia \$20.00, Belgium B Frs 60, Canada \$23.50, Cyprus Pcs 325, Cyprus C£1.20, Denmark Dkr 18.00, Finland Fmk 17.00, France Frs 14.00, Germany DM 4.50, Gibraltar Gps 5.00, Hong Kong HK\$ 20.00, Ireland Ir£ 4.50, Italy L 4.50, Luxembourg Lf 60, Madeira Esc 350, Malta Mls 450, Morocco Dir 27.00, Norway Kr 20.00, Portugal con Esc 350, South Afr R 250, Sweden Swk 15.00, Switzerland S Frs 4.00, Tunisia Din 2.200, USA \$13.50

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

TV & RADIO	34, 35	LETTERS	15	ARTS	12, 13	SPORT	19-31
WEATHER	18	OBITUARIES	17	CHESS & BRIDGE	30	MIND & MATTER	10
CROSSWORDS	18, 36	WILLIAM REES-MOGG	14	COURT & SOCIAL	16	BUSINESS NEWS	32-34, 36

4,500,000,000 YEARS

FROM NOW THIS WATCH WILL LOSE ITS POWER SUPPLY.

What isn't is that the Citizen Eco-Drive puts all other watches in the shade. Powered by light, just a few minutes is enough to charge the battery for up to six months. So you'll never need to change the battery. A performance you'd expect from Citizen, the first to bring you a watch with a 3 year guarantee. For a brochure and your nearest stockist, call 01753 897210. ©CITIZEN Eco-Drive

'Too little time' to prepare for reforms designed to toughen examinations and broaden curriculum
Schools combine in attempt to delay A-level changes

By JOHN O'LEARY
 EDUCATION EDITOR

STATE and independent school head teachers have joined forces to demand a postponement of changes to A and AS-level examinations, which ministers hope to implement before the general election.

Reforms designed to toughen up some A levels and broaden the sixth-form curriculum are expected to be approved by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, in the new year. The new courses are due to begin in 1998, with the first examinations in 2000. However, head

teachers and classroom unions claim that the timetable gives schools too little time to prepare. A joint letter from 11 state and independent sector bodies says: "It would be extremely regrettable if the many beneficial outcomes of the changes to A and AS levels were jeopardised by a hurried start which left many young people seriously disadvantaged."

Concerns about the timing of the changes were raised last month by Professor Denis Lawton, who chairs the Joint Council for the GCSE. In a letter to Sir Ron Dearing, then chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Council, he said that exami-

nation boards and teacher organisations favoured a year's delay in implementing the changes to give time for further consultation, avoid confusion over the revised qualifications and ensure that courses were taught successfully.

In a separate initiative, the heads of mathematics in 23 leading independent schools have made the same appeal to the SCAA. The department heads, including those at Cheltenham Ladies College, St Paul's and Westminster, said the proposals would do nothing to improve the quality or supply of mathematicians, and might hinder the process.

The reform package, put forward

by Sir Ron in his report on the 16-19 age group, will alter the structure of A-level courses, introduce new programmes in "core skills" such as information technology and communication, and replace two-year AS levels with more intensive one-year programmes. The basic content of the courses has been agreed, and syllabuses are to be drafted by next summer.

Although the changes have all-party support, their timing could become a political issue. The move to more demanding qualifications is certain to feature in the Conservative election manifesto and a delay is certain to be discouraged.

David Hart, general secretary of

the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The authority and the politicians would be most unwise to ignore the unanimous view of organisations representing all types of school. It may be that there is a political agenda, which requires us to meet particular deadlines, but this must be sacrificed if it does not fit in with educational considerations."

Mr Hart said the dispute was not over the content of the proposals. "There is real enthusiasm to get on with it but the timetable must be realistic."

The SCAA is expected to finalise its advice to Mrs Shephard early next month. A spokesman said the

authority was unlikely to recommend a delay. "The timetable is acknowledged to be tight but it is achievable and the aim must be to make the necessary changes this century rather than next."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, has already expressed doubts about the speed of the changes in mathematics.

Government advisers yesterday defended the introduction of new national examinations for teenagers who cannot cope with GCSE, which will give candidates credit for writing their own name. Critics accused the SCAA of diluting standards by offering certificates

for worthless achievement. But the authority said it was merely bringing a number of existing courses into a national framework.

The proposed "entry level" qualifications are pitched at a level below that of an average 11-year-old. A recommended reading list for a course in English includes simple picture books and uses extracts from television programmes for coursework.

An SCAA spokesman said: "These qualifications are intended primarily to motivate individuals to continue to learn and achieve, rather than regarding themselves as being written off as complete failures."

Navy withdraws missiles found to have explosive flaw

By A STAFF REPORTER

SIGNIFICANT numbers of the Royal Navy's primary air-to-air missile have been withdrawn because of cracks that could make them explode on firing.

Half the Sidewinder missiles aboard the aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible*, which is on 72 hours' notice to sail to the Adriatic if British troops in Bosnia have to be evacuated, have been found to be dangerous and unusable. The Ministry of Defence has begun negotiations with the Pentagon in an attempt to secure compensation.

Labour demanded an immediate investigation into the problem and called for the urgent examination of other equipment to ensure that vital weapon systems were not affected. David Clark, the shadow defence secretary, said: "Thankfully, these faults have been discovered now and not in a time of war. It is simply unacceptable that some of our most important equipment has been damaged in this way. Our forces need to know they can rely on the equipment they have been provided with."

The cracks were discovered during a periodic X-ray exami-

nation in the warhead of Sidewinders manufactured in the United States by Raytheon and Aeronautics between 1979 and 1981. Defence sources said dirt particles in the cracks heat up to extreme temperatures when the missile is fired, which could cause the warhead to explode shortly after firing, endangering the lives of Sea Harrier pilots.

The Sidewinder, the primary short-range missile carried by Royal Navy Sea Harrier jump-jets, was used with great effect in the Falklands conflict, when 26 were fired, hitting 19 Argentine aircraft. The 9ft 3in long infra-red homing missile

targets the heat emitted by an enemy aircraft engine. Armed with a high explosive warhead, Sidewinder was bought in an arms deal between the Ministry of Defence and the Pentagon.

The first batch of AIM-9L Sidewinders was drawn from stocks in the United States produced by Raytheon and Aeronautics, which is now part of Lockheed Martin. Later batches, which are not affected, were produced in Europe by a consortium of British, Italian, Norwegian and German companies.

Urgent work was under way to replace the damaged missile warheads, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. "We can confirm that there is a problem with some small holdings of the older Sidewinder missiles," he said. "As a sensible precaution, those affected warheads are being withdrawn and replaced."

He added: "In the meantime, they have been given full safety certification for continued storage afloat."

The RAF said it was aware of the problem with Royal Navy Sidewinders but said it had discovered no similar cracking in its own arsenal.



Eddie Copeland's bomb-damaged car is removed from outside his home in West Belfast yesterday. He suffered leg injuries in the attack.

Blast increases tension on mainland

By STEWART TENDLER
 CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Belfast car bombing could have serious implications for the mainland, the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch warned yesterday.

After being briefed by the RUC, Commander John Grieve, head of the branch and national co-ordinator of anti-terrorist operations, said: "We have been saying since the beginning of December that these are dangerous months we are entering. Anything that happens there has significance for us over here. Anything that increases violence and tension in Northern Ireland is significant for us."

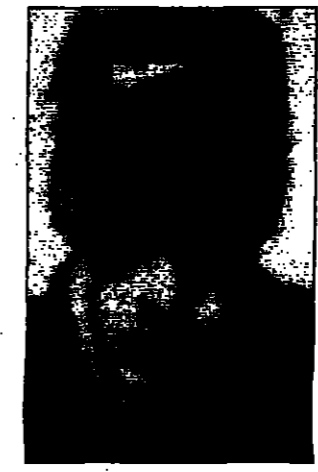
Anti-terrorist operations in London and many other parts of Britain are already on high alert. Extra officers are patrolling London and other cities in a strategy of high visibility policing intended to keep the pressure on the terrorists.

Mr Grieve was commenting on the security situation in Belfast as he issued close-circuit television pictures of a man who visited a west London self-storage company shortly before it was raided by an IRA team last month. A trio of raiders attacked the company's unit in Shepherd's Bush, tied up the guard and ransacked 55 units. Police believe they fled with explosives and bomb-making equipment. The man in the picture came to the

company almost 24 hours before the gang struck. He called himself Tommy Hearn and spoke with a London accent. He was 6ft tall and said he was interested in hiring a unit.

Mr Grieve said police were keen to interview the man and that he had been at the company "at a time which is of great significance to us. We would be very interested to hear what he has got to say. We believe he is an important witness. We have spent some time trying to find him and not been able to trace him."

The raid was carried out by two men who were masked and a third who was about 5ft 11in tall and did not wear a mask.



Wanted: Tommy Hearn

ROTHKO £39 £25
 Bentwood beech chair
 Blue or natural

habitat sale

STARTS 10AM, 27th DECEMBER

For store details call 0645 334433 (local call) anytime

Goldsmith links with Unionists in funding deal

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER Unionists will announce today that Sir James Goldsmith, founder of the Referendum Party, is to provide financial backing in a deal that has already provoked divisions in the party. He will fund Unionists to campaign in Westminster and the general election for a broad referendum on Europe.

Even before the deal was formally announced, however, it became clear that the Unionist party's nine MPs are not united behind the alliance, which was agreed between Sir James and the David Trimble, the party leader. John Taylor, deputy leader of the UUP, said he opposed the link and insisted it would have no effect on the way his party operated at Westminster. Despite backing that total more than £100,000 for the cash-strapped Unionists, Mr Taylor said: "I would advise caution about Goldsmith's Referendum Party. Whatever the immediate temptations may be, Ulster Unionists would be wise to always think of tomorrow."

The reaction of Mr Taylor, the party's European policy spokesman, suggested Mr Trimble had not received full backing from his MPs before arranging the deal. Ken

Maginnis, another senior Unionist MP, said: "I have no knowledge of any pact or deal with any party."

However, Mr Trimble will announce that Jim Nicholson, the only Ulster Unionist Euro-MP, is to join the Europe of Nations political grouping in the European Parliament, a group headed by Sir James, who is a Euro MP.

The alliance increases pressure on John Major as he holds out against demands to stage a referendum on Britain's future relationship with Europe. The Prime Minister, who has promised a referendum on the single currency if the Cabinet approves Britain's entry, again dismissed suggestions that Britain might withdraw from the EU.

In an interview with the *Sunday Programme* on GMTV, Mr Major said it was rare for a political debate to touch the emotions so "savagely" as the one over the future shape of Europe. "It is an issue which touches the heart as well as the head. We haven't in 150 years of politics had very many matters that are of such concern to people as the present concerns that people have about the direction in which Europe might go."

Tory guns are trained on Labour tax plans

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TORY ministers will launch a campaign next month to undermine Labour's tax policy and to pre-empt Gordon Brown's long-awaited announcement on taxation.

Amid signs that Labour is preparing to drop its plan to impose a 50p tax on those earning more than £100,000, ministers are to press the Labour leadership to explain how it will meet spending commitments.

Senior Conservatives are to seize on Labour's delay in spelling out its tax proposals by running a three-week offen-

Five become No 1 for a spicy Christmas

The Spice Girls claimed the Christmas number one spot yesterday, knocking the Dunblane anti-gun protest song from the top of the pop charts. The five-girl group's record, *2 Becomes 1*, had been the bookmakers' odds-on favourite for the coveted position and was the fastest-selling release of the year, with 450,000 copies sold in a week.

Madonna came in at number three with *Don't Cry for Me Argentina*, which was also released this week to coincide with the premiere of her film *Evita*.

The Spice Girls also remain at the top of the album chart with their debut record, *Spice*. Only the Beatles, Queen and Cliff Richard have achieved such a double before.

Food-bug detective ill

A detective constable with a Strathclyde Police team investigating the *E. coli* 0157 food-poisoning outbreak, which has claimed 15 lives in central Scotland, is suspected of having contracted the illness, it emerged yesterday. The constable, 39, started showing symptoms last week and went on sick leave to his home in Lanarkshire, Strathclyde Police said. He is being treated as an outpatient at Monklands District General Hospital.

Bird row mediation offer

The head of one of Britain's privatised water companies has offered to mediate in the dispute between anglers, who have been killing cormorants, and environmentalists. Sir Fred Holliday, chairman of Northumbrian Water, who has just been elected president of the British Trust for Ornithology, claimed an "appreciation of both sides of the argument" but said the law had to be obeyed as long as cormorants remained protected.

University league call

Vice-chancellors of four leading universities called yesterday for the creation of a "premier league" of higher education, which would take the lion's share of government research funds. The heads of Cambridge, Edinburgh and Warwick universities, and University College London said the money must go to be channelled towards departments of international excellence if Britain was to compete with other leading research nations.

French attacks linked

French police hunting the killer of the Cornish schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson in a Brittany youth hostel in July are investigating claims that a second British teenager was molested in a seaside town near by on the same night. British police have interviewed the other girl, who told them that she escaped after her classmates awoke and shouted at the intruder.

Lottery winner secret

The £10.3 million National Lottery Christmas jackpot has been claimed, but the ticket holder has decided to avoid publicity. Camelot, the organisers, could not reveal whether the winning ticket was owned by an individual or a syndicate. Twenty tickets matched five numbers plus the bonus ball, winning £158,977 each. Lottery numbers, page 18

How Dahl...

Linford Christie b...
 Killed in street sta...

...island sunseeker...
 ...ing of a wet Chris...

A colonel's daughter was the unknowing inspiration behind a new blockbuster film

How Dahl made magic from the real Matilda

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BEHIND the 'anonymous' but fictional heroine of *Matilda*, the newly released film likely to rate highly with young cinema audiences, lies a real-life Matilda who is nothing like her screen persona at all.

On screen, Matilda is a precocious imp who is determined to read books from an early age, despite the advice of her blockhead father that she would be better off couch-potatoing in front of the television.

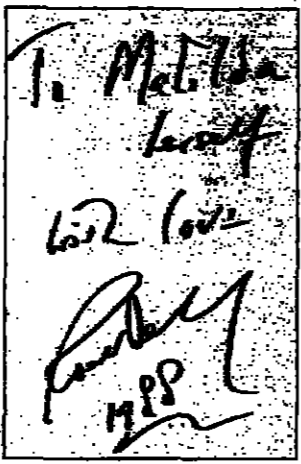
She fairly crackles with such pyrotechnic insults as "You villainous sack of gobsmite" and "You squirming worm of vomit". You know at once, without having to read the credits of the movie that went on general release at the weekend, that Matilda is a creature sprung from the imagination of Roald Dahl.

In the real world, Matilda Twickel is a 20-year-old economics student at Newcastle University, rarely says "gobsmite" and is not the daughter of a dodgy Arthur Daley-like character who does up wrecked cars and flogs them to the unsuspecting.

But she did meet the children's author when she was two years old, and a first edition of the Matilda stories with a dedication to her on the flyleaf in Dahl's own hand seems proof enough that although he did not borrow her character, he certainly borrowed her name. Miss Twickel was in the audience at a private showing of the film last week in aid of the Pathfinders charity.



Dahl inscribed a copy of his book to Matilda Twickel; Mara Wilson plays the film role



founded by the late Group Captain Leonard Cheshire. Her father, a retired Royal Armoured Corps lieutenant-colonel, is associated with the charity. Cheshire and Dahl served as wartime pilots.

Miss Twickel found the film enjoyable but saw nothing of herself in it. She said of her youthful meeting with Dahl: "I remember nothing about him at all. I am not the inspiration for the film."

family at their Warwickshire home, where he met baby Matilda and once witnessed her as a tiny bridesmaid at a family wedding.

Colonel Alex Twickel, Matilda's father, said yesterday that Dahl, whom he remembered as a raconteur with a sharp tongue, borrowed his daughter's name, which appealed to him, but there the similarity ended. "The fictional Matilda is very bright, intellectually precocious even, but with quite horrible parents. My younger daughter was not intellectually precocious; she was an ordinary girl who did well at school. As for the parents, I will leave others to judge, but we always encouraged our children to read."

Miss Twickel has an elder sister, Angela, who is reading engineering at Edinburgh University. She has escaped public attention, as Dahl never wrote a series of Angela stories.

The film version is even further removed from reality than Dahl's story, its setting transferred by its Hollywood producers to California and the name part taken by the young American actress Mara Wilson. Miss Twickel's father is played — and the film directed — by Danny DeVito, who in looks, speech and background bears about as much resemblance to Colonel Twickel as does the real Matilda to that hideous brat in Dahl's book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Miss Veruca Salt.

Which is, in short, none whatsoever.

Review of A Christmas Carol page 13



Miss Twickel: now a 20-year-old economics student, she was two when the children's author met her

Linford Christie brother killed in street stabbing

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LINFORD CHRISTIE returned to Britain to join his bereaved family yesterday after the death of his younger brother Russell in a stabbing in west London.

Today Simon Williams, 32, unemployed and of no fixed address, will appear at Marylebone Magistrates' Court charged with murder. Russell Christie, 34, was found stabbed and seriously wounded in Notting Hill, and died later in hospital. He had received stab wounds to his neck and was found by police after they were alerted by members of the public to a report of fighting. He died early on Friday morning but there was a delay in identifying him.

Efforts were then made to contact his brother, who was training in Sydney, Australia, with Colin Jackson and other athletes. Mr Christie, 36, one of Britain's most famous and

wealthiest athletes, refused to speak to reporters when he landed at Heathrow yesterday.

But one family friend said: "Linford has not been particularly close to his brother for several years now, even though he still loved him."

"I don't think he liked the way their father was dragged into the trouble in the early 1980s. However, he is an emotional man and is sure to be upset, not only because he was his brother, but also because he will be worried about the effect Russell's death has on their father."

In the early 1980s, the family was caught up in a racial conflict. In his autobiography Mr Christie, who rarely speaks of his private life, describes how his younger brother became embroiled in a running feud with some white people in Notting Hill.

He went to his brother's

defence but the problem escalated, with police involvement. On one occasion, police officers raided the family home looking for Russell, and knocked their father unconscious during the search.

Mr Christie's family always believed that his younger brother might have done just as well as him. When Russell was jailed for three years in 1989 for giving his girlfriend a beating, his father said ruefully that he had once been a schoolboy sports star with a great future.

Russell also spent several months on remand in jail accused of an assault of which he was later cleared. Linford said those lost months made his brother "a bitter man".

Russell grew increasingly emarginated in trouble spurred by an aggressive temper. Later there were links to drugs such as cocaine.

Russell was jailed in 1989 for an attack with a baseball on his former girlfriend, Zoe Groves. In 1992 he was arrested for burglary, theft and robbery. Police arrested and released him in 1993 for trying to break into a car.

In 1994 he was jailed again for attacking a woman. This time he was given three years for slamming the head of his girlfriend Georgine Gourlay against a car window. A police sergeant was also injured. Russell was also given a six-month jail sentence for breaking into the friend's BMW car.

The Christies' mother, Mabel, died last year but their father, James, a former BBC porter, is still alive.



Linford Christie defended his brother Russell, right, during a racial dispute in Notting Hill in the 1980s



Why island sunseekers are teeming of a wet Christmas

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of holiday-makers who flew to the Canaries in the hope of a sunny Christmas have been greeted with howling gales and torrential rain.

A major Atlantic depression brought miserable weather to Britain's favourite festive getaway islands, and some of the worst conditions in years to parts of North Africa, Spain and Portugal. The north of Tenerife had 23 mm (almost one inch) of rain in 12 hours, and temperatures have fallen to about 55F, 20 degrees below the seasonal norm.

Gales closed some small island airports, flights were diverted from Las Palmas to Tenerife, and a spokesman at Tenerife's southern Reina Sofia airport said: "We are

having a terrible time with the weather. There are long delays and no sign of a let-up."

More than 120mm of rain has swept Gibraltar in the past two days. The depression is expected to return during the week.

The holiday exodus from Britain is continuing: more than 250,000 passengers will have boarded British Airways flights between yesterday and Christmas Day — 11 per cent up on last year. Extra flights have been laid on to cope with the expected 70,000 who will fly within Britain.

Heathrow will handle 750,000 passengers over the five days leading up to Christmas Day. The airport is expecting its busiest ever day on Sunday January 5, when

196,000 travellers are expected to use its four terminals. On the roads, large queues built up yesterday around shopping centres. The RAC reported an eight-mile queue of almost stationary traffic on the A1M outside the MetroCentre, Gateshead, and said that there was heavy traffic through the Dartford Tunnel during the morning as shoppers made for the Lakeside centre at Thurrock, Essex.

At least four people were killed on icy roads. Three died when a van and car crashed on the A166 at Gate Helmsley, near York, and a man was killed at Turvey, Bedfordshire, when his car span off the A428.

Forecast page 18

Two phones.

One bill.

Orange Talkshare. Two reduced price phones. One Talk Plan with shared minutes. One connection charge. One monthly bill.

Dancall dc1 twin pack £29.99 (r.r.p.)

- 60 minutes of free talk time to share each month for only £37.50 (plus VAT).
- Calls between Orange phones only 10p per minute (plus VAT) throughout the week.
- Weekend calls only 5p per minute (plus VAT) for all local, national and Orange to Orange calls.
- Orange benefits include per second billing, free 12 months insurance with
- 24 hour replacement and a 14 day money back guarantee.
- Both phones will receive new numbers from Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd.
- Connection to Orange Talkshare is subject to status and a one off connection charge of £30 (plus VAT).
- Your Orange contract will be for a minimum of 12 months.

Find out more about Talkshare at

Tandy

orange

Visit your nearest store for full details.

changes
 No for
 business
 offer
 linked
 secret

Prince's faith earns Carey's blessing

By Ruth Gledhill

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday praised the Prince of Wales's commitment to Christianity and the Established Church. Contradicting the verdict of his predecessor, Lord Runcie, Dr George Carey said: "I don't believe that Prince Charles has given up on the Christian faith and certainly not the Church of England."

He praised the Prince for a recent speech in which he argued that the West had much to learn from Islam. Dr Carey said: "He believes, as I do, that our country must be open to other faiths and we must continue our tradition of hospitality."

Dr Carey, in an interview on GMTV's Sunday programme, referred to Humphrey Carpenter's biography of Lord Runcie, serialised by *The Times*. The former Archbishop said in it that the Prince was disenchanted with the Established Church and "gave up on it" more



The Prince of Wales holding four-month-old Princess Maria-Olympia, granddaughter of the exiled King Constantine of Greece, during her Orthodox baptism in Istanbul yesterday. The Prince is her godfather

than a decade ago. Dr Carey said: "I may therefore be in danger of colliding with my very good friend and predecessor." But he insisted that the Prince was a practising Anglican. "He has got a deep faith, rooted in the Christian faith, and of course I'm quite relaxed about him saying

there are things we can learn from other faiths' traditions. He is also aware there's much that the Christian faith can offer other faith traditions as well."

On the Prince's marital difficulties, Dr Carey told the interviewer, Steve Chalke: "He is a man who

takes faith seriously, who attends worship and someone who has struggled with ... brokenness in relationships. Therefore it's wrong for you and I to sit in judgment on people who are, as we are, people made in the image of God."

The Archbishop argued strongly against disestablishment. The Church was there for the nation, he said, and its 26 bishops in the House of Lords had made important contributions to recent debates on issues such as the asylum Bill, marriage and housing.

Vicar 'called by God' to heal rift at divided abbey

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

A NEW vicar has been appointed to take charge of Selby Abbey, one of England's most spectacular parish churches, where a power struggle between clergy and laity has led to the resignation of three vicars in six years.

Prebendary Keith Jukes, team rector of Carnock, Staffordshire, said last night that he had felt "called by God" to the abbey. On the recommendation of the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, monks and nuns are being sent there for the first time since the Reformation to help resolve the dispute.

Mr Jukes, 42, married with two children, said: "I am aware of the pastoral difficulties that there have been. I am convinced they will quickly be put behind us. Selby Abbey is a place of major potential and the future looks very good."

He will be joined by two nuns from the Order of the Holy Paraclete. Monks from the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, west Yorkshire, already visit every Monday to say prayers and offer spiritual counselling.

The abbey's difficulties over the past few years arose partly from its status as a parish church, coupled with with the beauty and magnificence of a cathedral. Most church buildings of that calibre in England have endowments, and a dean and canons to manage them.

Earlier this year, Dr Hope ordered an inquiry into the problems at the abbey, which was founded by the Benedictines in 1069 and is larger than many cathedrals.

Three vicars left in six years amid allegations of bullying, arguments, "power hungry" individuals and letters and



Jukes: said future at abbey looked very good

telephone calls to clergy claiming the abbey was not being properly run. The Rev Peter Dodd, now a hospital chaplain, left in 1993. He said earlier this year: "There were people who by their destructive nature were not supporting what I would regard as the will of God."

The report of the inquiry, headed by Christina Baxter, the Church of England's leading evangelical, described a "dark cloud" hanging over the abbey. Dr Hope recommended that a small community of nuns should be sent in "to nurture the life of prayer in the abbey and to pray for the locality".

Wallenberg gains recognition with statue in London

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen is to unveil a monument in London to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Jews during the Second World War.

Wallenberg was posted to his neutral country's legation in Budapest in 1944, where he saved an estimated 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the death camps by issuing them with false papers. The monument, by the Sussex-based sculptor Philip Jackson, will feature a 9ft bronze statue of Wallenberg against a background of *schutzpasse*, the false Swedish papers that provided protection against arrest by the Nazis.

Recent attempts to have Wallenberg given honorary, if posthumous, British citizenship failed, and a request for a statue to be put up in one of the royal parks was turned down on the ground that there was no space. Now, Westminster council has given a piece of ground for the monument in Great Cumberland Place in central London.

Members of the International Council of Christians and Jews, backed by an eight-year campaign by David Amess, Conservative MP for Basildon, have raised £50,000, largely in private and anonymous donations, for the monument. The Government has contributed £15,000.

Wallenberg's fate remains a mystery. When Budapest was occupied by the Red Army in 1945, he was taken to the Soviet Union, possibly under suspicion of being an American spy, and disappeared into the *gulags*. Many years later, the Soviet authorities said that

he had died of a heart attack in 1947. Surviving members of his family refuse to accept the official version of his death and insist that the statue be described as a monument and not a memorial. Wallenberg's surviving half-sister is expected to attend the unveiling in February.

John Bierman, the author of a biography of Wallenberg, has written the inscription for the monument. He said he believed the prisoner survived in Soviet jails long after 1947. Were he still alive, Wallenberg would now be 88.

There are memorials to Wallenberg in Budapest, Sweden and America, but until now there has been none in Britain. "He was not British, and did nothing for Britain, but what he did was a matter of common humanity. He saved very many more Jewish lives than Oskar Schindler, who in some ways was a war profiteer," Mr Bierman said.



Wallenberg reported to have died in 1947

You can count on another 16 years

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

THE universe will come to an end 16 years from today, according to Ancient Mayan astronomical predictions.

The prophecy has been dated to December 23, 2012 based on a widely-accepted correlation between the Christian calendar and the "Long Count" of the Maya of Central America.

A Great Cycle of 5,126 years will come to an end on that day (another scheme would make it two days earlier). The Long Count began in 3114 BC, and consists of 13 *baktunob* of nearly 400 years each. Each day was named and numbered in a 260-day sacred cycle — the product of 20 names and the numbers 1-13 reused until the same combination came round again — and in a 365-day solar year with its 18 months (such as Zip or Mac) of 20 days and a five-day unlucky period called *Uayeb*.

The number 13 was favourable in Mayan eyes, being the number of layers in the heavens (while nine, the layers of the underworld and the number of Lords of the Night, was of ill omen). The present cycle was not, to the Maya, the first creation: their sole surviving epic, the *Po'ol Vuh*, tells of four earlier

worlds, each unsatisfactory to the creator gods, who destroyed them.

The famous Aztec "Calendar Stone" in Mexico City also attests to four ancient creations and their destruction, indicating that Mayan beliefs were shared across Mesoamerica. The Aztecs, however, calculated in 52-year periods, but lacked the great cycles of time invented by the Maya.

Although even the 3114 BC creation of the present universe lay well before the first Maya farmers settled in Yucatan, their scribes were fascinated by large numbers, and on a monument at the city of Coba listed a succession of 13-unit periods, which some scholars interpret as ever-longer periods of imaginary time.

The ancient Maya would be awaiting the end of their world with trepidation, if their own civilisation had not collapsed a thousand years ago, with much of the remaining knowledge wiped out by the Spanish conquest five centuries later. They would understand our own millennial concerns, but be surprised that we were planning celebration, rather than propitiation, of our gods.

HOME BASE SALE

STARTS BOXING DAY.

STORES OPEN 10AM

20% OFF

15% OFF

15% OFF

SELECTED KITCHENS

BATHROOM SUITES AND TAPS

CERAMIC FLOOR AND WALL TILES

PLUS MANY GREAT OFFERS INSTORE.

HOME BASE

SAINSBURY'S HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES

MONDAY-THURSDAY 9AM-8PM • FRIDAY 9AM-9PM • SATURDAY 9AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM • CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE 9AM-6PM • BOXING DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY 10AM-6PM
 *10% off on 14.1.97. Offer excludes taps sold with Wroughton Kitchens, 15% off all marked prices. Merchandise subject to availability. *Stores in Scotland open 9am-6pm. **Stores in Scotland closed New Year's Day. Opening hours may vary. Please call 0181-200 0200 for details of your nearest store.

Shoppers' tastes push cost of Christmas

STICES HAVE PROBLEM

Wallase recalls mince pies of rubber contain

American import the

An expansive pleasu

Family cheer: £34 in 1973, £219 now

Shoppers' tinsel tastes push up cost of Christmas

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE cost of Christmas may seem bigger each year to harassed shoppers, but Britain's oldest seasonal price index shows it has risen little more than the rate of inflation. The average family's cheer this year is six times what it was in 1973, when the index started, compared with general prices up by 5.2 times.

The bill, recalculated by The Times each year, is almost £220, nearly 10 per cent up on 1994, when it topped £200 for the first time. The "feel-good" factor may partly be to blame. Since some elements in the index suggest shoppers are offering dearer versions of some staple lines, such as puddings and cakes, as customers "trade up".

The index was devised by a Conservative MP who later became minister for consumer affairs and chairman of the National Consumer Council.

When the figures were calculated in 1973 by Baroness Oppenheim-Barnes — then Sally Oppenheim, MP for Gloucester — the cost of providing a married couple and two children with all the items on her list was £34.89p. Mrs Oppenheim claimed in 1977 that under a Labour government the cost of Christmas had doubled since 1973.

Her selection is, though, open to criticism. For example, the turkey apparently goes unstuffed, there is no provision for Christmas boxes to

milkmen, postmen or dustmen, and the family survives the season without a single satsuma or other piece of fresh fruit. They also subsist without wine and drink only one pint of beer while shifting three bottles of spirits.

The Times has nonetheless recosted the same items regularly since 1978, revisiting the same north London supermarket. Many things have happened to complicate the calculations. Metrication and changing habits have led manufacturers to abandon some of the weights.

This year's version of the 1½lb pudding, for example, is three 227g (¾lb) puddings from the supermarket's standard own-label range. The 1½lb size has followed the 40oz Christmas cake into history. Most puddings in the shop, with such descriptions as "luxury", "commissaire" and "extra rich and fruity", are dearer but selling faster.

Where equivalents are no longer available, it is assumed for this year's calculation that the average family will buy the nearest alternative. We were able to find a half-pound (227g) box of chocolates this year; last year, the figure had to be calculated by dividing the cost of a larger pack. But the only Christmas cards remaining in the shop on December 18, when our prices were recorded, were a "luxury" range at £2.99 for boxes of

ten, leading to a leap in the cost of that item.

Being an average family, the hypothetical folk for whom the shopping is being done are not normally given the chance of "luxury" or "premium" qualities where more basic is offered. This year's mince pies, though, are "deep-filled" and on special promotion, reduced from 89p to 65p. The shop had no standard pies on offer.

Turkey, pudding, pies and cake are dearer this year, as are nuts and postage. We saved on Brussels sprouts, potatoes, tree lights (due to the introduction of a shadeless set of 40) and crackers (a new "economy value" box of 12).

The three bottles of spirits, marginally dearer this year, are supermarkets' own-labels but 5d smaller than in 1973, when the standard bottle was 75cl. To judge by the shelves, most people now buy in litres.

The solitary pint of beer comes from our supermarket, not from Calais or a pub. Even so the price, achieved by extrapolating from the price per 100ml on a multipack, ranged from 54.5p to £2.19, as the supermarket now stocks a variety of premium and extra-strength ales and lagers.

As always, it was possible to buy many of the goods more cheaply from discount stores or market stalls. Toy prices, in particular, vary widely from outlet to outlet, and it has to be doubted whether children would still be content with the meagre choice of games and toys available in our supermarket. None of those priced in 1978 remains on sale in our chosen store, so we priced a fresh selection from those in stock.

The figure we spent on toys is close to the national average per child but is supposed to buy presents for two. Family expenditure on toys, up almost ninefold since 1973, in our survey, has shown one of the more rapid escalations in the list.

The pudding, cake, tree, cards, crackers, gift wrapping and parcel post have increased in price even more sharply, while the most stable prices in the list are those of the brandy and turkey.

	1973	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turkey, 14lb fresh	£7.08	£13.86	£13.88	£15.26	£16.48
Mince pies, 6	12p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Christmas pudding, 1½lb	34p	£2.82	£2.99	£2.84	£4.47
Christmas cake, 40oz	90p	£4.50	£5.49	£5.99	£9.74
Brussels sprouts, 1½lb	12p	25p	35p	£1.04	£2.99
Potatoes, 5lb	75p	30p	30p	£1.14	27p
¾lb of chocolates	40p	£1.49	£1.59	£1.89	£1.78
Assorted nuts, ½lb	17p	49p	89p	87p	81p
Christmas tree, 5ft	80p	£2.95	£18.89	£17.50	£14.99
Tree lights	80p	£8.99	£9.99	£7.49	£4.99
Truss	60p	£1.45	£1.69	£1.99	£1.99
Christmas crackers	49p	£4.49	£5.49	£7.99	£5.99
Bottle of gin	12p	£2.49	£2.99	£3.74	£2.99
Bottle of whisky	£2.39	£8.95	£8.99	£8.72	£8.99
Bottle of brandy	£4.44	£9.99	£9.99	£9.20	£9.75
Pint of beer	89p	89p	74p	89p	79p
24 Christmas cards	89p	£2.49	£2.99	£1.99	£1.19
5 sheets wrapping paper	15p	50p	60p	£4.95	£4.15
Postage, 1st class x 24	84p	5p	5p	5p	5p
Toys and games	£10.95	£81.16	£88.85	£37.50	£98
Parcel post, 4 x 2kg	£1.08	£19	£19.20	£19.20	£19.40
Total	£34.89p	£182.99	£200.45	£205.53	£219.90

Waitrose recalls mince pies over fears of rubber contamination

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SECOND supermarket chain has withdrawn thousands of packs of mince pies from sale amid fears that some could be contaminated with small pieces of rubber.

Waitrose issued a public warning this weekend and withdrew stocks of own-brand mince pies at its 115 branches. Customers were asked to return packets of pies with a sell-by date before January 15 and were offered a refund or an alternative product. The supermarket acted after Tesco

warned last week that the mince pie in "a few" of its pies could contain rubber from the manufacturing process and began recalling supplies.

The problem was traced to Park Cakes, supplier for both chains, which is investigating the contamination. A spokeswoman for Waitrose, part of the John Lewis Partnership, said the firm had received one complaint from a woman who had discovered rubber in a mince pie. Mince pies now on

sale at Waitrose comprise extra stock from the manufacturer and loose pies from the pâtisserie counters. All are "sound stock".

□ The Tesco products affected were packs of Tesco 6iced Top Mince Pies, Tesco 6 Lattice Mince pies and Tesco 6 Deep Filled Mince Pies (manufacturer's code 0141). Customers who have bought any since November 1 are asked to return them to a Tesco store, where they will be given a refund or a replacement product.



A season ticket to be jolly: Christmas drinks with a 60-mile running buffet

Festive workers fight to keep their party on track

By JONATHAN PRIXON

THERE were all the ingredients of a festive staff party: the cheap white wine, the gaudy streamers, the paper plates laden with nuts, and *Do They Know It's Christmas?* blaring from the stereo. There was also the inescapable feeling of the floor swaying slightly.

This was a party with a buffet running for 60 miles. Aboard the 18.31 London to Brighton train, commuters were having their traditional celebration on the last working Friday before Christmas.

Comet South Central, the new French holders of the route's franchise, are planning to remove the commuters' beloved but ageing buffet cars in the new year. There will be new carriages with more seats, but only a trolley for refreshments.

Passengers who pay up to £3,000 a year have sent a 500-name petition and hundreds more personal letters of protest. On Friday night, as more than 100 revellers crammed into the 25-year-old



All aboard: a party sign

buffet car at Victoria, there was despair at the prospect of a future without their "pub on wheels".

Elaine Irving, 44, a secretary from Worthing, West Sussex, said: "It is the only thing that makes commuting worthwhile. You mix with all sorts of people from stockbrokers to bricklayers. It will be soul-destroying without the buffet."

Ms Irving met her husband, Charlie Strong, on the train, and said that many relationships developed from meetings in the buffet. One couple kept an affair alive for ten years before going home to their married partners each evening. One

Stores open all hours to cater for final rush

By NOEL FUNG

WITH two shopping days before Christmas, shops and supermarkets are extending their hours. Many will be open until 10pm tonight.

Asda: Clapham, Watford, Edinburgh and Fenchway in Bristol open overnight tonight. Some open until midnight tonight, most close at 9pm or 10pm, 6pm tomorrow. Books etc. Today 9am-8pm or 10pm, tomorrow 9am-6pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Budgens: Today 8am-5pm, tomorrow 7.30am-7pm, closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Co-op (CWS): Today 8am-8pm, tomorrow 7.30am-5pm.

Debenhams: Today 7.30am-7pm, tomorrow 7.30am-5pm. Dillons: Today 9am-10pm in most shops, tomorrow 9am-5pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Hamleys: Covent Garden: today 10am-8pm, tomorrow 9am-6pm. Regent Street: today 10am-8pm, tomorrow 10am-6pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Friday 10am-7pm.

Harrods: Today 9am-8pm, tomorrow 9am-5pm. Closed Christmas, Boxing Day and December 27.

Harvey Nichols: Today 10am-7pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Friday 10am-8pm.

Iceland: Today 8am-10pm, tomorrow 8am-5pm. Boxing Day, closed except some in Scotland open 9am-5.30pm. Brixton branch opens overnight tonight.

LATE SHOPPING

Marks & Spencer: Marble Arch and Panen open 9am-9pm today, tomorrow 9am-6pm. Others vary but all closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Safeway: Open overnight tonight at Brent Cross, but most open from 8am-10pm today and 7.30am-6pm tomorrow. Safeway IP in Basildon open Christmas and Boxing Day. Sainsbury's: Today 7.30am-9pm, tomorrow 7.30am-5pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Selfridges: Today 9am-9pm, tomorrow 9am-6pm. Friday and Saturday 9am-6pm.

Sovereign: Most opening hours extended by up to two hours. Branches at Ludlow and New Invention, West Midlands, open overnight tonight.

Toys 'R Us: Today 7.30am-10pm, tomorrow 7.30am-8pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Friday 9am-8pm or 10pm.

Tesco: 16 stores open overnight tonight — Edinburgh Metro, Preswick, York Clifton Moor, Reading, Sandhurst, Portsmouth North Harbour, Bristol, Hemel Hempstead, Gatwick, Hayes Ball Bridge, Darford Tunnel, Cambridge Bar Hill, Thornton Heath, Ipswich Copdock, Brent Cross, Ashford and Crookfoot.

Wastores: Today 8.30am-9pm, tomorrow 8am-5pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Shopping centres: Lakeside, Tinsrocks: Today 10am-10pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Friday 10am-10pm.

MetroCentre, Gateshead: Today 9am-9pm, tomorrow 9am-5pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Friday 10am-9pm.

Eldon Square, Newcastle: Today 9am-8pm, tomorrow 9am-5pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Friday 9am-5.30pm.

Birmingham Bull Ring: Today 8am-8pm, tomorrow 8am "until last customer leaves". Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Friday 8am-6pm.

Arndale Centre, Manchester: Today 9am-9pm, tomorrow 9am-5pm. Friday 9am-5pm.

Meadowhall, Sheffield: today 10am-10pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Closed Christmas and Boxing Day. Friday 10am-9pm.



Cromwell: declared pudding abominable

Pudding haters find relief in law

By ROBIN YOUNG

AS BRITONS collapse into their armchairs this week after ploughing through 160,000 tonnes of Christmas pudding, the more figure-conscious and those suffering from indigestion will no doubt be wishing it was illegal.

Strictly speaking, it is Oliver Cromwell outlawed both plum pudding and mince pies in a 17th-century statute that has never been formally repealed. He declared them to be "abominable idolatrous things" to be avoided by Christians; his statute stipulated that people could be jailed for eating or making them.

The origins of Christmas pudding are hazy but are thought to derive from plum pottage or plum porridge, a fearful brew of mutton broth thickened with brown bread, to which raisins, currants, prunes and spices were added as available.

There is no law that stipulates what ingredients a Christmas pudding should and should not contain, although some of the colourings used until recently have been banned under European law.

In the event that this year's shoppers fail to strip the shelves bare, another law requires all traders to empty their windows on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Act of 1448 makes it illegal for any goods to be displayed on Christmas Day.

Equally, it is an offence not to attend church on Christmas. The Act of Uniformity of 1551 lays down penalties for those who fail to attend their devotions "having no lawful or reasonable excuses to be absent".

More happily, legislation of 1831, which forbids hunting on Christmas Day, also stipulates that nobody can be arrested for anything other than serious crime or breach of the peace. Although drink-drivers need not hope to benefit, it is the same enlightened piece of legislation that prevents debt collectors from calling over the holiday, and which ensures that people cannot be served with writs or summonses over their Christmas lunch.

American import threatens to demolish Lego

By ROBIN YOUNG

TOY cupboards could soon be filled with millions of redundant Lego bricks as competition from a new source threatens the long-established market leader from Denmark.

K'nex, an American invention introduced here two years ago, is claiming a 41 per cent increase in UK sales this Christmas. According to the latest figures from independent researchers, it has hauled Lego's market share back to 53 per cent from an apparently unchallengeable 84 per cent two years ago.

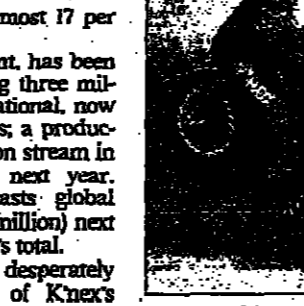
K'nex appears to be doing to Lego what Lego did to Meccano, the classic British construction kit, when it was first launched in Britain. Meccano was reduced to a mere 5 per cent of the market it had previously dominated.

K'nex is now claiming almost 17 per cent of the British market.

A depot at Ashford, Kent, has been working full-time packaging three million sets for K'nex International, now established in 22 countries; a production factory should come on stream in Ashford at the end of next year. Meanwhile, K'nex forecasts global sales of \$120 million (£75 million) next year, three times this year's total.

Shopkeepers have been desperately trying to acquire stock of K'nex's biggest construction kits, Rollercoaster and Ball Factory, which retail at £99 each. The producers have been unable to keep up with demand for battery and mains power units for the kits, which sell at prices from £20 to £90.

K'nex marries Lego's clip-on method



K'nex kits are in toys' top ten

of construction to Meccano's principle of struts and rods of different sizes. "Its great advantages are that it can be used to make very large models very quickly, and that they stay together

and move," Russ Ward, K'nex's managing director in the UK, said.

Lego was launched in Denmark in 1932 using wooden bricks, later replaced with plastic as international sales climbed. K'nex was conceived by Joel Glickman of Pennsylvania, president of a family plastics business.

Mr Glickman claims Lego is "trapped within their building block system", and that K'nex is much more flexible and mobile. Peter Ambeck-Madsen, head of public relations at Lego, said: "We do not feel trapped at all. Lego is still the system in the construction toy market."

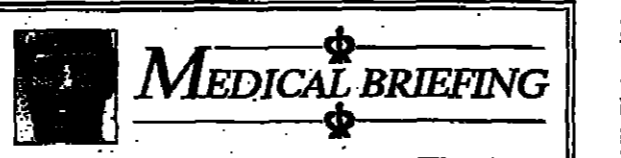
The British Association of Toy Retailers said Lego and K'nex were both in the top ten this Christmas, Lego at number five with Wild West sets from £3.49, and K'nex at number ten with construction sets from £7.99.

An expansive pleasure free of any addiction



A Christmas cigar can be safe and satisfying

THE pleasures of a Christmas cigar can be happily and safely enjoyed by people who have never been addicted to cigarette smoking. But for a surprising number of people who have given up cigarettes, a cigar rekindles a desire to smoke. The relationship between cigar smoking and cancer of the lung and heart disease is weak, unless the smoker has previously smoked cigarettes regularly. For them, one small cigar is as lethal as three cigarettes and one medium-sized cigar as dangerous as five cigarettes. Research has shown that the



dangers of cigar smoking in those who had previously enjoyed cigarettes persist even if the person claims that they do not inhale. The British Medical Journal Christmas edition includes a warning: smoking may not only speed the thickening process in the arteries and cause a general appearance of premature ageing, but it is also specifically related to early greying of the hair in both sexes and, in men, early baldness. J.G. Mosley, a consultant surgeon at Leigh Infirmary in Lancashire, and A.C. Gibbs, a statistician from the Christie Hospital in Manchester, analysed the hair colour and thickness in

patients attending the general surgical out-patients department at Leigh Infirmary. The results showed a clear link between smoking and early greying. The authors hope that, even if patients are not persuaded to stop smoking by the risk of disease, vanity may induce them to give up cigarettes. W.H. Auden's face, which was said to reflect that of a heavy smoker, was once described as looking like a wedding cake left in the rain.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

MORTGAGES

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION ON MORTGAGES FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND BRANCHES

The following interest rates will apply from 2 January 1997 for loans not yet drawn and from the first payment date on or after 2 January 1997 for existing Bank of Scotland Branch Customers.

Home Loan Rate	7.24% per annum.
Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable)	7.24% per annum.
Premier Flexi Mortgage Rate	6.75% per annum.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

HEAD OFFICE: THE MOUND, EDINBURGH EH1 1YZ.
The logo, Bank of Scotland and A Friend for Life are registered trademarks of the Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

Aftermath of a scandal: the children abandoned in the Wright affair

My stupidity, by the mother of bishop's son

By LIN JENKINS

A MOTHER who kept the secret that she had a Roman Catholic bishop's child said yesterday that she had finally come to terms with her own stupidity.

Yesterday, in her first newspaper interview since the scandal broke, she told *The Times*: "It was a very painful business, having my stupidity held up for everybody to see. But in the end it is quite a small price to pay for the truth to be told."

Wright and his new woman, who has left her children to be with him in a tiny cottage in the Lake District.

A new life on benefit for Lakeland lovers

By CAROL MIDGLEY

AT THE rented cottage which he shares with Kathleen MacPhee, the former Bishop declined to discuss his new life. Mr Wright, 56, spoke through his closed front door as he told *The Times*: "We feel we have done enough talking with the press. We just want to be left alone now to get on with it. There is nothing further I want to say in public at the moment."

relationship four weeks later. Neighbours say they have so far been reluctant to involve themselves in local community life.

Mr Wright now claims ES0 a week unemployment benefit and ES300 a month housing benefit. Mrs MacPhee, 41, has found work as a supply nurse at Westmoreland General Hospital in the Lake District.



Mr Wright and Kathleen MacPhee at their cottage. He said yesterday: "We just want to be left alone"

Whether it is wickedness or madness, I don't know," she said. "They are not bad men that take this line, but are misguided. They have from the cradle been indoctrinated and gone from the arms of mother to Mother Church."

Her experience has left her vitriolic about the Church. She thinks she has lost her faith and is surprised Mr Wright considers himself still a member of the church. "The clergy have to be celibate, not chaste. The church plays down this can of worms, yet in their eyes he has probably done nothing wrong. When they talk about the scandal and damage he has caused, the scandal is

the press moved from her doorstep, she asked the Church for counselling, since they had openly offered it to Mr Wright and Mrs MacPhee. "I was angry with the church. Archbishop O'Brien said, 'No, go and find me to see a lawyer. In the end you have to laugh. It is the only sane thing to do. You look for the joke and there is a large one here.'"

clergymen, or are having affairs with them, have offered their support. But she is contemptuous of the offer. Having come to terms with her own stupidity, she feels these women should look at what led them to make such an unwise choice and not to bleat about the church's refusal to address the problem.

Runaway woman 'has made no contact with daughter'

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE ex-husband of Kathleen MacPhee said yesterday that she had not spoken to their daughter in the three months since running away with the former bishop.

MacPhee, 44, a builder, said his ex-wife would not be spending Christmas with her or sons Donald, 18, and Stephen, 24: "I don't know what she is doing. I have not spoken to her or heard from her and I am not interested whatsoever."

Mr MacPhee, who was divorced from Mrs MacPhee in 1992 after 21 years of marriage, was forced into hiding for three weeks when his wife fled in early September that his ex-wife had run-off with the

bishop. Yesterday he said: "I have been offered ES0,000 or even a blank cheque to tell my side of the story. But I won't. I have the children to think about."

In the wider Catholic community of Argyll and the Isles there is still great hurt and great upset," according to Archbishop O'Brien. After Mr Wright's resignation, revelations that he had a 15-year-old son plunged the Catholic Church into debate about celibacy in the priesthood. Archbishop O'Brien has spent the past three months travelling by fishing boat, car and plane, to the far flung corners of this remote region, where on some islands 99 per cent of the population are Catholics.

feelings of great hurt and great upset at the various revelations about his lifestyle," he said. "It is the equivalent to a death in the family and naturally there is a grieving process. I have told them that it is natural to feel hurt and that they should not be frightened to talk to one another about their pain."

which is so different from his own, have been "physically tiring, but stimulating spiritually." He has found people's faith intact and strong.

NEW HIGHER INVESTMENT RATES FROM THE CHESHIRE Effective from 1st January 1997

INSTANT SBI	BASIC RATE	INTEREST RATE	PREMIUM ACCESS	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE
£25,000+	4.30	4.44	6.45	6.16	5.76	5.76
£10,000+	4.00	4.14	6.15	5.86	5.46	5.46
£5,000+	3.70	3.84	5.85	5.56	5.16	5.16
£1,000+	3.10	3.24	5.45	5.16	4.76	4.76

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

TESA (Fixed Income)	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE
1 Year	6.45	6.15	6.45	6.15	6.45	6.15
2 Year	6.45	6.15	6.45	6.15	6.45	6.15

Medical 'mechanics' who perform a modern miracle on the human heart

By JOHN YOUNG

ON A grey December morning at Guy's Hospital in southeast London, Michael Tynan, professor of pediatric cardiology, and Dr Shakel Qureshi, a consultant, are readying themselves for a day of what they call "mechanics". They reject the term surgery because the operation they are about to perform is one of the miracles of late 20th-century medical science: the repair of a human heart without the use of the surgeon's knife.



Professor Tynan, left, and Dr Qureshi prepare to operate on a young hole-in-the-heart patient

perhaps relax the rigid protocol," Dr Qureshi said. "But we have to develop our experience of putting these devices in, so we can't experiment with cases that are marginal or debatable until we know that we can do it right."

The two men are taking part in trials of an American device, known as a cardioseal, which is used to seal a hole in a heart between the two main atria. It consists of two tiny, back-to-back plastic "umbrella" which, when manoeuvred into place, provide a permanent barrier to blood from the veins seeping into the patient's lungs. Until recently, the only means of curing the defect was by open heart surgery. The cardioseal can be inserted through a catheter in the groin and manoeuvred up through an artery to the heart.

The Evelina Appeal

I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal) for £.....

Or, please debit my Visa / Access / Mastercard account

Expiry date: / / Today's date: / /

Signature: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

DAYTIME PHONE No: _____

To make an instant credit card donation, please telephone 0171-403 4089, or send this coupon with your donation to:

The Evelina Appeals Office
Henriette Raphael House
Guy's Hospital
St Thomas Street, SE1 9RT
Reg. Charity No. 251983

I would like my gift to help Research Care Equipment or the General Appeal Fund (tick as appropriate)

Tick here if you would like a receipt.

Every operation is preceded by informal discussions with prospective patients or, in the case of children, with their parents. It is made clear to them that the device is still under investigation, that it is being offered as an alternative to surgery, and that there is no guarantee of success.

"After we have done, say, 30 or so operations, we can

Girl, 9, missing since Thursday

Police are searching for a nine-year-old girl who has been missing from her home in Chester for three days. Kayleigh Ward has not been seen since she went out to buy chips at 8.40pm on Thursday.

When she did not return her mother, Yvonne, thought she had gone to stay with a relative. Mrs Ward contacted police the next afternoon after searching for Kayleigh without success.

Police described Kayleigh as "streetwise" and said she was known to take time off school to hang around Chester city centre, where she knew many people. She was known there as "Oddbod" or "Oddie".

Drug cash gift

Jersey police have been awarded more than \$1 million (£600,000) by the American authorities for their help in tracking down the proceeds of drug trafficking. The cash was seized by the US Customs during a money laundering operation organised by a Texan drug smuggler. His Jersey-based trust company had informed local police who investigated.

Pupils' cane call

Schoolchildren in Newark, Nottinghamshire, have written to their MP urging him to support their campaign to bring back caning. They told Richard Alexander that they wanted a return to corporal punishment because they were fed up with disruptive pupils misbehaving in classrooms. The Tory MP, who is also a solicitor, said that he supported the move.

Hunt arrests

About 15 hunt protesters trapped a supporter and his two-year-old son in their Range Rover on a farm track as they followed the Suffolk Hunt near Long Melford. Up to £1,000 damage was caused to the vehicle before a 19-year-old woman and a man of 28, both from Cambridgeshire, were arrested for alleged criminal damage and public order offences.

Channel switch

A fast catamaran service is to replace ferry sailings on the Ramsgate-Dunkirk route from May. Sally Ferries is teaming up with the fast-craft company Holyman to operate a 74-metre catamaran carrying 600 passengers and 84 cars and making eight 90-minute crossings a day. From March, the new partnership will also operate two catamarans to Ostend from Ramsgate.

Mother's death

A mentally handicapped man has been found trying to feed and wash his mother a month after she died. Michael Brewer, 41, had told concerned neighbours in Southampton that his 71-year-old mother, Dorothy, was staying inside because she had a cold. When they called the police, Mrs Brewer's body was found in a chair. She had died of natural causes.

BA aid flight

More than £3.6 million in unwanted foreign coins and notes has been given to charity by British Airways passengers and crew. Passengers now donate an average of £100,000 a month to the Change for Good scheme, which was set up in 1994. Saudi riyals, Hong Kong dollars, Japanese yen and Indian rupees are among the most popular currencies donated.

Sleepless nights

More than a million parents are suffering from sleep deprivation inflicted by young children, a new study showed yesterday. Researchers at the Bristol Institute of Child Health found that two thirds of parents with babies between six and 18 months old are woken regularly, many up to eight times a night. The result was enormous stress on marriages and work.

shadow

ugh Fujim

ms deman

ebel gunm

China's blu

Patten with

love

ruli

Constant shadow of terrorism haunts envoys

DIPLOMACY is becoming a dangerous job. In the past 20 years, hundreds of diplomats have been assassinated, robbed, mugged, bombed, hijacked and held under duress. Targets for fanatics, terrorists, asylum-seekers and criminal gangs, diplomats even in "safe" countries must prepare daily for the possibility of attack. Security and survival training are the essential first lessons of all courses preparing young men and women to represent their country.

Mob violence against foreign missions is nothing new and British diplomats have a

long history of sang-froid under attack. When the Red Guards burnt the British Embassy in Peking during the Cultural Revolution, the staff had to run the gauntlet of chanting Chinese trying to block their way to safety. When Indonesians besieged and burnt the British Embassy in Jakarta, Sir Andrew Gilchrist, then Ambassador, walked round the flaming buildings playing the bagpipes.

For Britain, the violent new age of personal attacks on diplomats was savagely inaugurated with the kidnapping

The once enviable life of diplomats has been made nightmarish by the need to guard against abduction, violence and murder, Michael Binyon writes

of James Cross, Britain's trade representative in Montreal, by Quebec separatists in 1970 and the seizure in 1971 of Geoffrey Jackson, the British Ambassador in Uruguay, who was held by Tupamaro guerrillas in tiny underground cells for eight months.

Since then violence has stalked British embassies. Two ambassadors have been murdered — in Dublin and The Netherlands — and several have been shot at, attacked or threatened.

Edward Chapman, the head of chancery in the rump British Embassy in Tehran, was kidnapped by six armed men in 1987 at a time when there were no diplomatic relations between the two countries. He was forced out of his car, assaulted in front of his wife and child, dragged away and held for 24 hours.

Jack Dodds, a Second Secretary in Pakistan, was among

three European diplomats kidnapped at gunpoint as they drove into southern Afghanistan in 1993. Last year bandits shot Graeme Gibson, a diplomat in Kenya, while stealing his car. He died of his wounds.

Personal violence is a constant threat and this year the Foreign Office gave a warning that more and more countries are becoming unsafe. There has been an increase in violence, especially in Africa and the Third World generally, although random shootings and robbery are a matter for increasing concern also in Russia and East Europe.

All new diplomats are trained in personal security, risk avoidance and how to combat terrorism. The Foreign Office keeps a watchful eye on all risks, including regular intelligence assessments, but does not give the details to do so would defeat the point of the training. But

all anti-terrorist measures are broadly similar. Like wartime agents parachuted into enemy territory, diplomats are given psychological preparation for a possible ordeal: how to maintain mental stability during days of confinement and tension, how to get a dialogue going with kidnappers, how to avoid provocation and how to safeguard diplomatic and political secrets.

Such training has proved useful, not only when diplomats are taken hostage but also in assisting negotiations to free other British citizens kidnapped abroad. In the past year alone British diplomats have played key roles in negotiating with kidnappers who have seized Britons in Colombia, Indonesia and Kashmir. The tactics and skills of British diplomats, police and anti-terrorism experts are often in demand even in hijackings and sieges when no Britons are involved.

Training for terror, however, is a standard part of all Western diplomacy. Americans, who have suffered the most attacks, now live and work in embassy compounds that have been fortified to become what are hoped to be

impregnable citadels. Diplomats must report their movements in advance, and security guards are always on patrol.

The worst spate of diplomatic kidnappings was in the 1970s, when urban guerrillas in Latin America abducted and murdered the German Ambassador to Guatemala, and in Brazil the envoys of America, Germany and Switzerland were seized and traded at a rising exchange rate for political prisoners. The decade ended with the seizure of the entire American Embassy in Tehran, lasting a record-breaking 444 days.

Since then, great efforts have been made by host governments to protect diplomats. Those from countries targeted by terrorist groups — America, Britain, Turkey and Israel, among others — are guarded in high-walled compounds by armed police.

Even in Germany the British Ambassador rarely goes out without a visible police escort in an armoured personnel carrier. Diplomacy has been constrained, but the number of incidents has fallen slowly, at least until the kidnapping in Peru.



The British envoy Geoffrey Jackson during his 1971 ordeal as a captive of urban guerrillas in Uruguay

Tough Fujimori spurns demands of rebel gunmen

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI has decided on a tough line with Peru's hostage-taking rebels. In a short weekend speech, he rejected the demands of the terrorists and refused to rule out an armed rescue attempt.

He described the actions of the rebels as "repugnant", but said he was willing to explore a peaceful solution "which does not violate the human rights of the hostages or captors".

About 30 heavily armed members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement are holding more than 360 hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima.

The President's message overshadowed an announcement several hours earlier by Nestor Cerpa, Cartolina, the rebel chief, that he would gradually release hostages not connected to Peru's government in the following hours and days.

In a four-minute speech, Señor Fujimori insisted that the rebels lay down their arms and release all hostages, saying this would be a clear way to prevent "the use of force by the Peruvian state".

"You cannot talk about a peace accord while using terror as the main argument," said the President, who built his political reputation on giving terrorists no quarter and locking them up.

Alluding to rebel demands that he free some 300 of their jailed comrades, he said: "Freeing people who commit murders and terrorist attacks is unacceptable... they want dialogue while putting an AK rifle on the necks of the hostages."

A "non-violent" way out would be possible only if the rebels surrendered their weapons and released the hostages first, he said. "The proposal is concrete: the cap-

tors have to surrender their weapons to a guarantor committee and free all the hostages without exception."

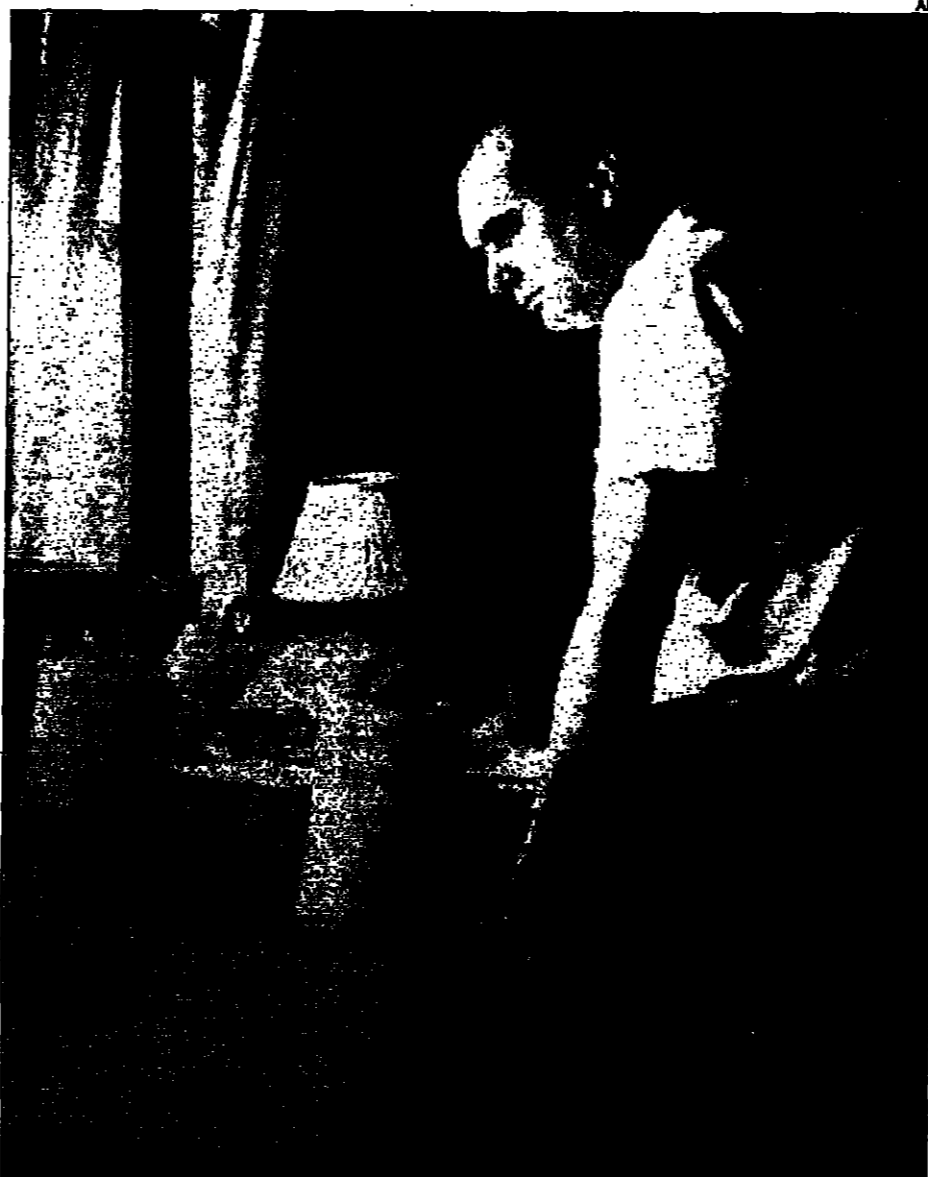
The words, spoken sternly and quickly, were the President's first public statement since the hostage crisis began on Tuesday night.

Hopes of a solution without bloodshed faded further with a radio message from the rebel leader Cerpa, alias Comandante Evaristo, who said his men would lay down their arms only when some of their demands were met — especially that hundreds of their imprisoned comrades should be released from Peruvian jails.

Japan and Peru seem to be ironing out earlier differences over how to handle the crisis. The Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, said he backs President Fujimori's firm line. "I want to make clear that the Government supports the proposals in his [President Fujimori's] message," said Mr Hashimoto.

Yesterday he recalled his Foreign Minister, Yukihiko Ikeda, who has been in Lima since Thursday night, seemingly urging a more conciliatory attitude towards the rebels.

Señor Fujimori's "tough talk", however, raises growing fears for the lives of the hostages. His Foreign Minister, Francisco Tudela, who is among the hostages, pleaded for "negotiations" in a radio link-up that was aired on television on Saturday. He urged for "some kind of direct communication line between the Government and the gun-



Francisco Tudela, the Peruvian Foreign Minister, looks out of a window of the Japanese Ambassador's residence. He has appealed for negotiations to begin

men", indicating despair at the deadlock in talks.

The Japanese Ambassador, Morihisa Aoki, echoed these worries and also spoke on the radio. "There are many seriously sick people in here. We are living in atrocious conditions," he said in a shaky voice. "It is indispensable that the Peruvian Government and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru] begin negotiations that ensure a peaceful end."

The first television pictures taken inside the building show the hostages crammed into rooms but seemingly calm, playing cards. It also appears that the Peruvian politicians are separated from the foreign dignitaries.

But what seems most worrying is the rebels' determination. "These people are trained to die for the cause," said a former member of the group.

□ Rome: The Pope criticised the rebels in Peru and urged the gunmen to release the hostages. Their actions were "deplorable", he said.

"I cannot help but criticise such a cruel and immoral type of coercion," the Pope told pilgrims in St Peter's Square, in his weekly Angelus message. "Violence does not construct the future of a people," he added, speaking in Spanish. (Reuters)



A group of hostages wait together in this picture shown yesterday on Lima's Channel 5 television

Opposition to 'shadow' Milosevic

Belgrade: Serbian opposition leaders yesterday unveiled shadow governments for dozens of municipalities in their campaign against President Milosevic.

Shortly after the Union of Free Cities and Municipalities of Serbia was formed, about 100,000 protesters began marching through Belgrade. It was the thirty-third consecutive day of demonstrations against Mr Milosevic and his decision to annul election results in dozens of towns and cities won by the opposition.

Heavy rain did not appear to dampen the spirit of the protesters, who jeered and booed as they marched by the state television building to show their displeasure at its pro-Milosevic bias.

In Smederevo, southeast of the capital, officials of Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party convened another demonstration in his support. (AFP)

China's blunt instrument faces Patten with death of 1,000 cuts

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG



provisional council as "an echo chamber" and ordered his officials to avoid it. But Mr Tung says that the present government should face reality and co-operate with the new chamber.

Mr Tung will soon appoint his own Executive Council and senior officials who, he acknowledges, will be ratified in Peking. He says his administration will be strongly "ex-

ecutive-led, much less political, devoted to stability", and will encourage obligations rather than individual rights.

Mr Tung was a member of Mr Patten's Executive Council until June, when he resigned to prepare to take over as Chief Executive. Until then, Mr Patten and his spokesmen had declared that it was up to Mr Tung, already identified as Peking's man, to decide when it was "no longer appropriate for him to serve in the council". Two other members of the Executive Council, Vincent Cheng and Raymond Chien, were appointed by Peking to the selection committee.

A senior official said: "If Mr Patten started firing all the

Executive Council members who cosy up to Peking, very soon there'd be no one in the room except him and Anson." This was a reference to Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor.

But Mr Tung says he wants Ms Chan to be his Chief Secretary. How will she and other senior officials now serving Mr Tung, but soon to be appointed by Mr Tung, reconcile their conflicting loyalties and self-interests? And what will they advise Mr Tung to do about the commemoration next June 4 of the Tiananmen Square killings?

This year a candle-lit vigil was held by tens of thousands of demonstrators in Hong Kong's vast Victoria Park. Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, has said a repeat will not be permitted after the handover. Mr Patten says it will be allowed in 1997.

Senior Chinese officials, who invariably snub Mr Patten when they visit here, will be arriving in increasing numbers in coming months.

They will be received by Mr Tung, Foreign dignitaries, too, while punctilious about calling on Mr Patten, will linger longer with the Chief Executive, Winston Lord, the US Assistant Secretary of State, did this recently, even before Mr Tung's formal appointment in Peking, explaining that his Shanghai-born wife and the Shanghai-born Mr Tung are old friends.

Soon no one will make such

Six die as raid ends jail siege

Dhaka: About 4,000 paramilitaries and armed police stormed a high-security jail in Jessore, western Bangladesh, to end a week-long siege by prisoners demanding an amnesty (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The operation began at dawn, when bulldozers knocked down barricades put up by an estimated 2,700 prisoners. At least six people were killed and hundreds injured. Hospital sources said many of the injured could die.

Leader dilemma

Sofia: Reformists in the Bulgarian Socialist Party, wrong-footed by Zhan Videnov's surprise resignation as Prime Minister, failed at an all-night meeting to agree on a candidate to replace him. (Reuters)

Appeal to Eta

Llodio: Thousands of protesters marched through this Basque town to urge Eta separatists to free two hostages, the son of a leading glass factory owner and a prison official. (AFP)

Ground control

Paris: As France strives to make public spending cuts to meet the criteria for European monetary union, its air force, which is running out of fuel, has been ordered to abandon all training exercises.

Governor denounces ruling body 'farce'

Hong Kong: Chris Patten, the Governor, will today have his first "summit" meeting with Hong Kong's post-colonial leader, Tung Chee-hwa (James Pringle writes).

The meeting will be a test of how much Mr Patten will be prepared to co-operate with Mr Tung, a former shipping magnate. At the weekend Mr Patten described the selection of the 60-member provisional council as "a bizarre farce".

At the meeting, to be held this afternoon at the Governor's residence which is likely to become a "museum of col-

onial history" after the handover, the two leaders are due to talk about co-operation between the Governor's outgoing administration, now widely seen as a lame duck, and Mr Tung's incoming Chinese one.

On Saturday, after the selection of the provisional council, Mr Patten went on local radio and, in a voice of barely controlled rage, said that, whereas more than one million people voted for the Legislative Council, Peking's new legislature had been "elected" by 400 people.

Ships
Naval and Cruise Ship Features plus free Warship Print
On sale now at newsagents
(tel: 01283-542721)

HEAL'S
WINTER SALE
STARTS FRIDAY 27TH DEC
TOTTENHAM CRT. RD W1
KINGS RD SW3
TUNSGATE GUILDFORD

Seasonal lesson in how to fight hysteria with historical correctness

If you have been helping a son or daughter with a Christmas quiz and the questions covered history, I'm willing to bet that none tested knowledge of Belarus, the Baltics or Bulgaria. The odds are that few will have mentioned continental Europe.

Britain's postwar school curriculum has been stubbornly resistant to the idea of Britain's entanglement with the rest of Europe. To see this as a defect and disadvantage has nothing to do with well-worn rows over the European Union: we have to know more about Europe irrespective of what happens between Britain and its neighbours in the coming decades. The



breaking of federalism's intellectual monopoly in debate on Europe is an opportunity, not a threat.

The reorganisation of the National Curriculum last year provoked teachers to argue about whether they

need to teach more on Europe than they currently do. Nick Tate, the Government's curriculum chief, has taken a lot of brickbats for insisting that children learn enough British history to give them a clear sense of identity and for failing to insist on a "European dimension". Next month, he will defend his views at a seminar in London organised by the Federal Trust. The root of the problem lies in the idea that "British" and "European" history are rivals: no British child will acquire much sense of identity without a European dimension. The question is what sort. The word "dimension" always rings

alarm bells in my mind: scholarship is about to give way to special pleading. One of the Federal Trust's current projects, financed by the European Commission, aims to persuade schools to mount mock elections to the European Parliament in the summer of 1999 as part of children's education as "citizens of Europe".

This kind of propagandistic "education" gives the idea of learning about Europe a bad name. The project is directed by Frances Morrell, former adviser to Tony Benn and ex-leader of the defunct Inner London Education Authority, who is also urging the next government to write

Europe into the next version of the National Curriculum, due out in 2000.

Ms Morrell's general case for more learning about Europe is unimpeachable, but she has in mind telling pupils about the wonders of EU Europe.

She can point to a 1988 ministerial agreement, adopted by Kenneth Baker, then the Education Secretary, among others, that schools would "prepare young people to take part... in making concrete progress towards European Union."

To fend off this kind of rubbish (and lumpy English), schools need to show they are

not neglecting wider European history simply out of bad habit. Norman Davies, author of the first exciting single-volume history of Europe published here since the 1930s, energetically denounces these ingrained biases. "Our children aren't taught in a way that gives them any vision of what Europe is," he says.

To focus his readers' minds, Professor Davies has turned the maps sideways in his book; Western EU Europe perches on the tip of the vast hinterland of western Russia, Ukraine, Poland and the Balkans. "They can't see quite simple things like the fact that Budapest, Sofia and

Warsaw are not only in Europe, but that they aren't even on its fringe."

He adds: "If everybody's back is turned, teachers soon pick this up and pass it on. There's no attempt to establish a body of knowledge which makes them aware." It is the body of knowledge, of course, which is the snag. French historians have been active organisers and writers of "joint" multilingual histories of Europe which, to no one's great surprise, turn out to see European unification along French lines as historically necessary and inevitable.

none has been a best-seller. But children can roam more widely without pasteurised Euro-books. If Lord Tebbit read more history, he would not bang on about "a thousand years of the British parliament", when the Act of Union with Scotland only dates from 1707.

Here is a quiz question prompted by reading Professor Davies's appendix on the rise and fall of European states. Which European state has the longest unbroken history, founded in 1788? Answer: Andorra.

Europe: A History. Oxford University Press. £25.

GEORGE BROCK

Yeltsin prepares to purge 'slackers' on return to Kremlin

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

FOR the first time in nearly five months, President Yeltsin's motorcade will today sweep through the centre of Moscow and into the Kremlin, as the Russian leader belatedly begins his second term in office.

While many Russians will greet his return to power as an important step towards stability, others in his ruling circle will have good cause to regard the re-emergence of President Yeltsin on the political stage with trepidation.

Throughout his five years in power, the Russian leader has marked turning points in his career with sweeping personal changes, and the signs are that a reshuffle is imminent to demonstrate both at home and abroad that President Yeltsin is back in charge.

On Friday, during a seven-minute televised interview, the Russian leader said that he planned to make a full assessment of how his ministers and aides performed in his absence and vowed to take to task any "slackers".

"The euphoria after elections and my absence caused certain officials to relax," the Russian leader said. "If any of them hopes it will continue like this, they are dead wrong."

"We will make calls on everybody — no one will be allowed to rest on their laurels," he said. "We will part with those who dare not show their faces in public."

Russian commentators have speculated that the figure most at risk is Anatoli Chubais, the young technocrat who runs the presidential administration. His power and influence during President Yeltsin's absence earned him the title of "regent" and made him one of the most hated figures in the country. President Yeltsin sacrificed him almost exactly a year ago when he needed to improve his public profile and he may do so again.

"On the one hand, Yeltsin has an interest in keeping Chubais in office as a competent and hard-working person. On the other hand, the President is known to dislike people who can present a challenge to his authority," wrote Tatyana Malkina, the Kremlin correspondent of the daily *Segodnya* newspaper.

However, other figures responsible for the recent crisis over uncollected and unpaid taxes may also be in the firing line, among them Yevgeni Yasin, the Economy Minister,

and Aleksandr Livshits, Finance Minister.

But, if there are purges at the top, there will also be the opportunity for promotions. Anatoli Kulikov, the controversial Interior Minister who once commanded Russian forces in Chechnya, is widely tipped to become a Deputy Prime Minister.

Another likely beneficiary of President Yeltsin's return to office is Tatyana Dyachenko, the Kremlin leader's younger daughter. According to Georgi Satarov, a presidential political adviser, Mrs Dyachenko could become the Kremlin's Chief Press Officer.

Elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, hundreds of thousands of separatists in Moldova's breakaway republic of Trans-Dniestr went to the polls yesterday to elect a President. In the latest sign of defiance against the authorities in Kishinev, Igor Smirnov, the incumbent, appeared to be headed for a comfortable reelection win over Vladimir Malakhov, a local manager.

□ Mine deaths: Five boys aged between ten and 12 died yesterday when they stepped on mines beside a road six miles from Grozny, the Chechen capital. (Reuters)



The film star Sophia Loren at yesterday's civic ceremony in Rome, at which thousands, below, paid their respects to the actor Marcello Mastroianni

Rome bids a sad farewell to loved son Mastroianni

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ROME bade a tearful farewell yesterday to Marcello Mastroianni, the actor who personified the quintessential Latin lover of the 1960s *dolce vita* era. At a moving civic ceremony in Campidoglio Square, the women in his life set aside their differences to mourn their common love.

"This is one of the saddest days of my life," said a sobbing Sophia Loren. "I spent 20 years making films with him and Vittorio di Sica [the director]. So one could say that my youth has died with Marcello." At Signora Loren's side and also weeping was Flora Carabella, the actor's wife.

Both women were comforted by Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, as the screen idol's simple coffin was carried from the square on its way to the city's Verano cemetery. As the service, attended by thousands of people, ended, the haunting music from the film *8½*, directed by Federico Fellini, echoed across the square under a bright winter sun.

On Saturday at least 15,000 people, led by President Scalfaro, filed past the coffin in the Campidoglio Palace to pay their respects to the 72-year-old actor. The tributes continued for three hours before yesterday's service, with Alberto Sordi, the veteran comic actor, and Signora Loren, wearing a green and scarlet scarf over a black dress, among the last to arrive. By then the coffin was wholly covered in flowers.

Describing the actor as "the king of the common people" because of his tough childhood in a Rome suburb, *Il Messaggero* said that the lack of friction between his "harem" of women was "the last miracle of a *dolce vita*".

The women in the actor's life had agreed that one of his greatest loves, Catherine

Deneuve (whom he always called "Caterina"), should arrange the Roman Catholic funeral held for him in a chic Parisian church last week. Anna Maria Tatò, his last companion, also attended that ceremony.

"With his violent passions, shared with Faye Dunaway, Marthe Keller and the other women, Mastroianni had a hectic romantic, and therefore very much envied, life," said *Il Messaggero*. "He set up different families and loved, and was loved, by the most interesting women in the world."

Signor Mastroianni always refused to end his troubled marriage to Flora. "I have no wish to divorce, not because I regard marriage as a sacrament, but because I see divorce as a great pain," he said.

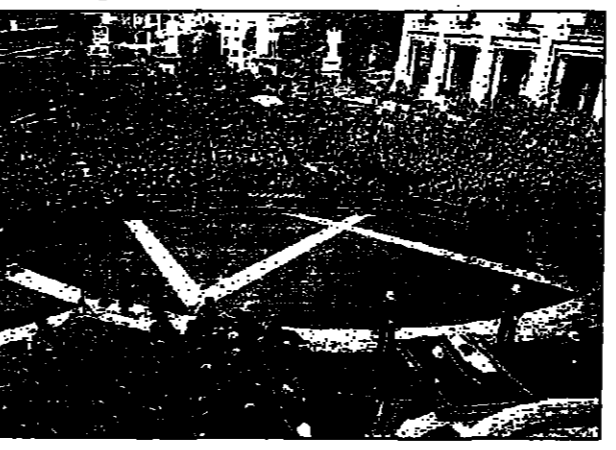
In the wake of his death, the Roman press has wondered if the actor, renowned for his generosity to the many women in his life, had left money to any of them or if he had even made a will.


In the 1960s, the profligate spending of Signor Mastroianni was legendary. After the success of *La Dolce Vita*, he continued to play the part of the playboy, driving around Rome in Ferraris and Maseratis.

In 1966 he bought a sprawling villa on the Via Appia Antica, the Roman consular road, and subsequently also acquired properties at Lucca and Castiglione della Pescaia.

Between 1968 and 1974 his generosity to Mme Deneuve and to Ms Dunaway was reported to be unbounded. He also did his best for his daughters, Barbara, whom he had by Flora, and Chiara, the daughter of Mme Deneuve.

"He had to think about too many people," *Il Messaggero* said. "Marcello used to say that women had given him a great deal but that some of them also had asked for a lot in return."

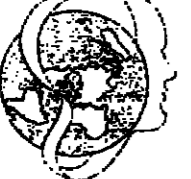





Nobel Biocare

Brånemark dental implant system provides quality of life for toothless patients

Brånemark System® would like to congratulate



Eastman Dental Institute
(Affiliated to University College London)



UMDS
GUYS AND ST THOMAS'S MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOL

UMDS
(United Medical & Dental Schools of Guys and St. Thomas's Hospitals)

on achieving a rating of 5, the highest band, in the HEFCE Research Assessment Exercise 1996 and look forward to helping develop both as international centres for implantology in London.

Farmers lift barricades in Greece

Athens: Militant farmers yesterday lifted their road and rail blockades which had crippled Greece and let land transport move freely for the first time in 24 days.

It was a big victory for Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, who had refused to yield to the farmers' demands.

The barricades, made up of thousands of tractors, had caused transport chaos and inflicted more than £60 million damage on the economy. Within hours of the decision to call off the protest — by the main farmers' committee in Thessaly — long stretches of motorways looked like abandoned refugee camps. Clean-up crews moved in to clear the mess.

The farmers said the decision was a seasonal gesture to the Greek public which had supported them throughout their struggle. They had wanted lower fuel prices, higher price supports, lower VAT on equipment and the rescheduling of £780 million in debts. (Reuters)

Defections by 11 MPs blight hopes of 'dictatorial' Dini

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE ambition of Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, to become Prime Minister again hit a snag yesterday after 11 renegade MPs angrily resigned from his party Rinnovamento Italiano (Italian Renewal), complaining bitterly of his "dictatorial tendencies".

Signor Dini founded the political grouping to contest the general election held in April and it was crucial in the victory of the centre-left Olive Tree alliance headed by Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister. However, on Saturday a meeting of the party's 25 members of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of parliament, became acrimonious as seven former Socialist Party members, headed by Enrico Boselli, declined to serve any longer under the leadership of Signor Dini.

Also deeply dissatisfied with the leadership of *Il Rospo* (the Toad), as Signor Dini is known to the Italian press, were three members of the

"Italian Pact", a mini-party for constitutional reform headed by Mario Segni, a Sardinian politician who masterminded a referendum that introduced an end to Italy's archaic proportional representation voting system.

These defections left the Foreign Minister with only 14 deputies still loyal to him, which is less than the quorum required to form a parliamentary group in Italy, meaning he may have to dissolve his party. Signor Boselli threatened also to tear asunder Signor Dini's party in the Senate, the upper house, "because there are insufficient conditions for the unity of a group in which a single component has tried to dominate an alliance between different political parties".

Signor Dini began his parliamentary career as a man of the Right, serving as Treasury Minister in the Government headed by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and head of the conservative

Forza Italia party. However, he threw in his lot with the Left this year, on the ground that he was concerned by the activities of Gianfranco Fini, the "post-Fascist" National Alliance leader.

The parliament yesterday approved the Government's 1997 austerity budget, drawn up in a last-gasp effort to prepare for the launch of the single European currency. The package, which aims to slice £25 million from next year's projected deficit, was passed by the lower house of parliament by 316 votes to two, with two abstentions.

□ Christ's millions: Italy's parliament has approved a Bill granting about £1.4 billion to projects in Rome to mark the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth, parliamentary sources said. The decision was scarcely awaited by those involved in preparations for the celebrations, when about 40 million pilgrims and tourists are expected in the city during the holy year. (AFP)

Drinks on £180m Fat One at Costa Blanca bar

HYSTERICAL screams erupted at Bar Miguclín in a poor suburb of Valencia on Spain's Costa Blanca yesterday. Number 56169, which clients had shared in *El Gordo* (the Fat One), the world's biggest state-run cash lottery, had just been declared the winner of the top £180 million prize. Their share of the winnings was £15 million. They had stuck resolutely to the same number for four years for the twice-weekly state lottery draws. Clients

found that the 500 pesetas (£2 38p) tickets they had bought from the bar owner, Miguel Ortiz, were going to pay out at 10,000-1. One man found he was worth £2.38 million.

Within minutes the Valencia street was packed with revellers. If there was mayhem at Miguel's bar, there was less physical, but equal delight, down the road at the old folk's club. Here the Association of Pensioners was also a winner, as were stallholders at Valencia's central market. *El Gordo* paid out a total of £800 million in prizes from Menorca to the

Canary Islands. Spaniards had invested more than £30 each. It took three hours yesterday morning for the boys and girls of San Ildefonso Cipriano in Madrid to chant out the hundreds of numbers and their corresponding prizes.

□ Flood havoc: Torrential rain added to flood havoc in southern Spain yesterday after a week of downpours. About 50 roads were closed and two rail links cut. A child of two and a 42-year-old were killed in León, northwest Spain, when their bus skidded in rain and hit a truck. Three other passengers were hurt.

Confession by Gingrich threatens job as speaker

Islamic tolerance



Rock Cafes... for him

Confession by Gingrich threatens job as Speaker

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH was fighting to save his job as Speaker last night after his stunning confession, following two years of denials, that he had broken ethics rules of the House of Representatives.

In a statement, Mr Gingrich admitted to having "brought down on the people's House a controversy which could weaken the faith people have in their government". An ethics subcommittee concurred, saying he had brought discredit on the House by failing to seek legal advice before using tax-exempt funds for political purposes and by then providing the committee with "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable information" about the money.

Mr Gingrich agreed that false statements were given to the committee over his signature. "I accept responsibility for this and I deeply regret it," he said. He had sought no personal gain, but "clearly I wish this had not happened."

These were words of extraordinary contrition for the man who led the Republican takeover of the House two years ago with swaggering self-confidence. Recalling how he had hoped to inspire Americans to take control of their destiny, he conceded: "I was over-confident and, in some ways, naive."

His political foes were making much of the fact that Mr Gingrich inspired the ethics charges that brought down another Speaker, Jim Wright, a Democrat, who was forced to resign in 1989 over charges of using the office to enrich himself.

The question now is whether the humility of Mr Gingrich will be enough. His allies in the Republican leadership swung into damage control yesterday, urging his re-election when the new House votes for a Speaker on January 7. They claimed to be confident of victory, which will require the votes of 218 of 277 House Republicans.

In a letter to them, their chairman, John Boehner, tried to soften the impact. He said Mr Gingrich's willingness to acknowledge an unintentional mistake was refreshing, and while the error was regrettable it was not significant enough for him to step down as Speaker.

Democrats took a much harsher view, demanding that he leave the office which, unlike Britain, carries powerful political leadership and is second in line to the presidency after the Vice-President. David Bonior, Democratic whip and a leading antagonist, accused Mr Gingrich of a pattern of tax fraud, lies and cover-ups.

The ethics committee has yet to decide what punishment to recommend to the full House, but the humble tone of Mr Gingrich's confession was in effect a plea bargain. While Democrats are pressing for censure that would remove him as Speaker, Mr Gingrich is seeking a less serious reprimand that would not preclude his becoming Speaker again.

Mr Gingrich's troubles stemmed from a college course he taught and a televised public forum three years ago. Both were politically partisan, but were paid for and run by non-profit organisations with tax-exempt status.

The committee faulted Mr Gingrich for not seeking legal advice about the legality of the tax-exempt financing for political activity. Tax lawyers told the committee they would have advised against it. Mr Gingrich agreed he had been careless and wrong not to seek legal counsel to ensure compliance with the law.

The committee also found it was misled by two letters by and on behalf of Mr Gingrich falsely denying that Mr Gingrich's political action committee was connected with the college course when its officials developed and administered it.



Nazarenes walking through the souk of the town where Jesus grew up. Vendors compete to sell souvenirs to a diminishing number of pilgrims

Donkey work is now shifting rubbish in squalid town of Jesus

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NAZARETH

WERE Joseph and Mary to make the Christmas journey today, they would find immigrants from the former Soviet Union in the donkey market and Russian prostitutes being touted in the hotel named after the archangel Gabriel.

The insignificant Galilee village in which Jesus grew up almost 2,000 years ago is today the largest Arab town in Israel with a population of 60,000. Of those, at least 60 per cent are Muslims.

A further 60,000 Israelis, many from the former Soviet republics, live in Nazareth III or Upper Nazareth, a Jewish development town whose functional architecture is anything but biblical. It was built on land that Arabs claim was seized by Jews to form a barrier between Nazareth proper and other Arab villages to the northeast.

According to the Israel Tourist Information Office, which sits among the blow-up Santas and tasteless decorations (including a Father Christmas rag in Palestine Liberation Organisation colours) with which the Arab shopkeepers try to extract money from a dwindling number of pilgrims, there are no donkeys left for hire in Nazareth.

Many donkeys are still to be found in the town, but all are used by the municipality to collect rubbish from the narrow, winding streets of the Old City above the Church of the Annunciation.

"There are 20 collectors working with the donkeys and all are from the former Soviet Union," said Andrei, from the Ukraine. "Even the Arabs refuse to do this demeaning kind of work now and we are the only ones who will do it." He used to be a photographer. Among other members of the donkey squad are a former ballet star from Uzbekistan who won the title "Hero of the Soviet Union", and Yacov, a former truck driver from Belarus.

Although animal rights campaigners are agitating to have the donkeys replaced by



vehicles, Arab residents are sceptical. "This city has been neglected for so long financially by the Jews that we do not expect a rapid change," said Bishop Riah Abu el-Assal, the leading Anglican churchman.

Andrei, although a Christian — as are at least a third of the 700,000 immigrants who have arrived in Israel since the collapse of communism — was unmoved by the religious associations of Nazareth, where Jesus is reputed to have spent 28 years, despite a \$100 million (£62 million) refurbishment programme now under way for millennium celebrations.

"It is dirty and a dump, without decent work for its inhabitants or even pleasant buildings," he complained. "My wife is Jewish, but we are hoping to leave for Budapest where I will start a proper job as a taxi driver. At least there the people will treat me with some respect."

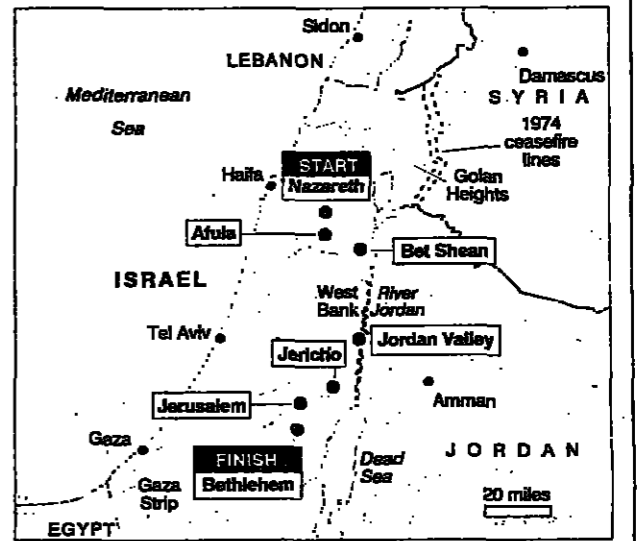
Close to the stinking stable where the donkeys are housed is the former "Carpenters' Quarter". This area is in decline as craftsmen

have moved away from Nazareth's traffic jams or joined the continuing exodus of Arab Christians from the Holy Land. The bishop estimates they now form 15 per cent of the population.

Ashad Abu Nahleh, 42, is the owner of one of only four carpentry shops where until a few years ago there were 30. Last Christmas, he and his wife and their three children made the journey to Bethlehem. "In Joseph's time, it would have taken at least six days, with Mary riding on a donkey," he said. "We went in a Fiat Punto and it took less than four hours."

Amid the urban sprawl of modern Nazareth, new temptations face those pilgrims who have braved the threat of Jewish-Arab violence to visit the spot where, according to Luke, the archangel Gabriel appeared before Mary and told her: "You will conceive and bring forth a son and call him Jesus."

In the bar of the St Gabriel Hotel, Albert, the Israeli Arab in charge of organising Christmas festivities, least over and whispered: "I have six Russian girls in Upper Nazareth. If you are interested, I will drive you over — it is a service for special guests." This is the first in a series on a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem by The Times Middle East correspondent.



Onassis will fall short of estimates

New York: The children of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's will almost certainly not set up a planned charitable trust with their inheritance because their mother's estate is worth far less than originally thought at the time of her death in 1994 (James Bone writes).

In court documents, the former First Lady's executors have valued her estate widely believed to have exceeded \$100 million (£60 million) — at just \$43.7 million. Mrs Kennedy Onassis made provision for the creation of a tax-free trust, named after her two children, that would make annual donations to charity for 24 years before passing the money to her grandchildren.

After distributing property to the children, making bequests and paying expenses, the estate has \$18 million left, but owes \$23 million in death duties. The children are liable for the shortfall.



Onassis children owe \$5 million death duties

Islamic hardliners test tolerance of Morocco

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MARRAKESH

ISLAMIC fundamentalism is making clear strides in Morocco, the one North African country to have resisted its advance so far.

Young religious radicals, watched over keenly by the Moroccan authorities and muzzled by no-nonsense laws, are resorting to guleful ways to spread their message, now focused on women.

Female "moralists", unable to proselytise openly for fear of arrest, have targeted hammams — segregated public baths — preaching to fellow customers the virtues of the veil, the evils of Western ways and the urgent need for a state governed by Sharia (Islamic law). The authorities have taken increasingly to posting policewomen at hammams, but their ranks are not extensive enough to counter this new phenomenon.

Yet for all its apprehension, the Moroccan Government is better placed than any other in the region to keep Islamic fundamentalism in check. Unlike in neighbouring Algeria, riven by bloody civil war, Islam has always enjoyed considerable breathing space in Morocco. King Hassan, whose dynasty boasts direct descent from the family of the Prophet Muhammad, has used his status as Emir al-Muminin (Commander of the Faithful) to masterly effect, appropriating Islamic imagery for use in official rhetoric.

Now in the 35th year of his reign, the King has never advocated the kind of relentless secularism which has

reaped such a backlash in Algeria and, to a lesser extent, in Tunisia and Egypt. He is not unduly paranoid in his approach to fundamentalist parties, and has even described their members as "basically good people who are devout Muslims". Showing all the strategic sense of a consummate survivor, he has sown divisions among the main Islamic parties by offering political legitimacy in exchange for an oath of allegiance to the monarchy.

The second largest Islamic party, al-Islah wa Tajdid (Reform and Renovation), has accepted the King's overtures. Its leader, Abdelilah Benkirane, 42, a former physics teacher, said recently: "Morocco's monarchy has Islamic legitimacy, and is both our social arbiter and the cement for national unity." Wags in Rabat, the capital, joked that King Hassan himself could not have written a better script

Algerian rebels die in farm lair

Paris: Algerian security forces killed 18 Muslim rebels when they stormed a hide dug by suspected guerrillas underneath some greenhouses on a farm south of here, an Algerian newspaper said yesterday. The French-language *Liberte* said they were believed to be a splinter faction from the Armed Islamic Group. (Reuters)

for Mr Benkirane. But the largest Islamic party, al-Adl wa al-Ihsan (Justice and Spirituality), remains a banned organisation. Its leader, Abdesslam Yassine, is in his sixth year of house arrest, having stubbornly refused to reach an accord with the King. The party is believed to have 20,000 clandestine members, many in the universities, and the authorities fear its highly motivated cells are present in the Army, the Civil Service, the legal and teaching professions, and among doctors.

Speaking to *The Times* at his spartan flat in Rabat, Arslame Fatahalla, the party's second-in-command, accuses the Government of "harassment, detention and torture" of his members. He said: "We are a non-violent party which demands for the people of Morocco the right to be governed by representatives of their own choice, and by the laws of their own religion." Although he refused to say so outright ("the subject is absolutely taboo in Morocco"), he implied transparently that his party could not accept that the monarch had any religious status whatsoever.

It cannot be denied, however, that most Moroccans are transfixed by the religious charisma of the King, and it is this factor which has served as an antidote to Islamic fundamentalism. With the exception of Mr Yassine's movement, Morocco's opposition parties call not for the abolition of the monarchy, but only for its reform.

Rock cafés duel for limelight in Beirut

FROM NICHOLAS BLANDFORD IN BEIRUT

SIX years after Lebanon's warring militias hung up their guns, the battles now being fought on the streets of Beirut are between international fast-food restaurants desperate to attract the thousands of affluent young Lebanese who returned from the West at the end of the 16-year civil war.

The latest conflict is being fought between two rival hard rock cafés. The original Hard Rock Café, owned by the Rank Organisation, opened for business

yesterday but was preceded by a rival Canadian chain, which opened its version last month. While both restaurants sport the same name and similar logos and are replete with rock 'n' roll memorabilia, Marwan Shehadeh, of Rockaf, the franchisee of the London-based restaurant, played down any resemblance. The new Hard Rock Café has "a 45ft high guitar made from 25,000 light bulbs hanging on the outside of the building," Mr Shehadeh says. "It will be the first sight of Beirut for all planes landing at the airport."

Certainly some of Beirut's young

swing-ers are looking forward to gazing at the restaurant's rock memorabilia that include a leather jacket which once belonged to Madonna and the handwritten lyrics to John Lennon's *Imagine*.

Both cafés face competition. Names such as The Lone Star Café, Henry J. Bean's, Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken, the Baskin Robbins Ice Cream Parlour and Shrimpy, the US-owned seafood chain, have opened in the last three years and attract youngsters emulating the lifestyles they left in the West. The latest to arrive is Planet Hollywood, the first in the Middle East.



OUR CHEAPEST EVER DIGITALS.

Now you can afford to surprise someone with a mobile phone as a Christmas gift without lumbering them with an on-going monthly bill. At Peoples Phone, we are offering all-in-one digital packages, where you make one payment and that's it for a whole year.

What's more, we can connect it on Christmas Eve. That way it's ready to make a call as soon as it's unwrapped and you don't pay for a single day you don't need.

And, of course, there are all the benefits of digital technology: per-second billing, cheaper call charges, superior call clarity, improved security and an international calls facility.

So, to make someone's Christmas Day, simply visit one of our 181 stores nationwide and speak to our specialist staff, who'll find the right package for you.

£180

- 12 months line rental
- Connection
- Up to £50 cashback OR Up to 10 minutes free calls per month for three months
- A choice of leading brand name phones including the Panasonic G550

DIGITAL GIFT PACKAGE

£250

- This price includes:
- 22 months line rental
- Connection
- Up to £50 cashback OR Up to 30 minutes free calls per month for three months
- Sony CM4000M

DIGITAL GIFT PACKAGE

OVER 180 STORES NATIONWIDE
CALL 0345-10-11-12
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE, A FREE INFORMATION PACK OR TO PLACE AN ORDER.



The offer is subject to availability, status and a new standard airtime contract of 12 months with 90 days' notice thereafter. Customers will need to provide a valid credit card or cheque guarantee card plus bank details and proof of address.

Handwritten note at the top center of the page.

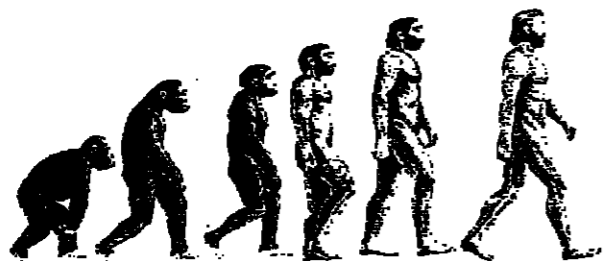
'It's like finding a family of Neanderthals living in 1996'

Mysterious skulls unearthed on the Indonesian island of Java suggest that *Homo erectus*, a primitive ancestor of modern man, existed just 27,000 years ago. Anjana Ahuja reports

The world of anthropology has been turned on its head. Fossils found on the Indonesian island of Java suggest that *Homo erectus*, an ape-like ancestor of modern man, existed a mere 27,000 years ago. Why has this simple date caused such a rumpus? *Homo erectus* was thought to have died out about 200,000 years ago, leaving the planet the exclusive domain of their more advanced descendants — human beings, or *Homo sapiens*. Now scientists suspect that in the midst of this extinction, a small *erectus* community survived on Java until between 53,000 and 27,000 years ago. In other words, prehumans stalked the Earth at the same time as human beings. As a report in today's issue of *Newsweek* puts it: "It's like finding a family of Neanderthals living in 1996."

stomach. However, Dr Carl Swisher, the geologist who led the research, is unrepentant. "Whenever you try to drastically change the age of a species, especially when there are two opposing theories, you are bound to run up against opposition," he says. "This work is only one little piece in a big puzzle, but it happens to support the Out of Africa theory."

Dr Swisher, from the Berkeley Geochronology Centre in California, and colleagues in America and Canada, dropped their bombshell just over a week ago in the American journal *Science*. But the story started three years ago, when Dr Swisher decided to examine some skulls unearthed in Java in the Thirties.



If these dates are accurate, there are many provocative questions raised by this unexpected overlap between human beings and our primitive ancestors. Did this small, strange tribe ever meet humans, go to war with them or interbreed? And since the beetle-browed Neanderthals, a subspecies of *Homo sapiens* and our most direct ancestors, were wiped out only 30,000 years ago, isn't it just possible that all three species coexisted? Also, the revelations will do nothing for creationists, who support the biblical notion of the uniqueness of mankind.

The 12 partial skulls, found near the villages of Ngandong and Sambungmacan,

had eluded definitive ageing. Experts guessed from their peculiarly large braincases that they were between 100,000 and 400,000 years old; in other words, they could have been either *erectus* or *sapiens*. However, many palaeontologists, including Susan Anton, from Florida University, a co-author on the *Science* paper, plumped for *Homo erectus*.

A tantalising possibility loomed — was it possible that *erectus* could have survived as recently as 100,000 years ago, instead of dying out 200,000 years ago as believed? Dr Swisher and two Canadian colleagues — Henry Schwarcz and Jack Rink, from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario — embarked on a mission to find out the true ages of the skulls. But there was a big problem — the authorities in Java would not let them chip a small sample off in case the delicate skulls were destroyed.

The team came up with a solution. An expedition to the sites furnished them with animal teeth plucked from the same fossil bed as the skulls. They assumed,

contentiously, that because the teeth came from the same spot, they would be the same age as the skulls.

The scientists tried electron spin resonance dating, which put the enamel teeth at between 27,000 and 53,000 years old, suggesting the skulls were this age, too. "These numbers seemed too young," Dr Swisher says. "We decided to date additional specimens, and specimens from other sites. We got the same number."

An alternative dating method, using the radioactive decay of uranium in fossils, threw up the same numbers. By now, word of the result was beginning to leak out. Dr Swisher says: "We knew we either had to talk fast or publish fast. It's not good to stir up controversy over hearsay. So, as we had run out of tests, we decided to go with what we had."



The apparent overlap between human beings and our ape-like ancestors will do nothing for the creationist theory

Taking t

shall I wear th

Last night on the street today both St Mungo's

SALE NOW ON

IN YOUR LOCAL TIME SHOWROOM

SAVE over £350

SALE

£109 incl VAT & Installation

SAVE over £125

SALE

£1391-20 incl VAT & Installation

SAVE over £198

SALE

£198 incl VAT & Installation

Visit One Of Our 26 Showrooms Nationwide

01282 777 111

TIME

Meteor 'life forms' could be mineral, a new report suggests

THE worm-like objects found in Martian meteorites and hailed as evidence of life on Mars are not animal but mineral, a new examination suggests. The crystals of iron oxide found inside them show a pattern of growth which is sometimes seen in minerals produced by volcanoes, but never in living things. The temperatures needed to produce them are also too high for life, a US team has reported.

Doubts over life on Mars

A second study suggests that the oily hydrocarbon molecules found inside the meteorite are the result of contamination as it lay for 12,000 years in the Antarctic, and not of life on Mars. The same compounds have been identified in a sample of Antarctic ice. The new challenges cast doubt on the claims made by scientists from the US space agency Nasa in August, and hailed by President Clinton, that the microscopic objects found in the meteorite are evidence of life. But Profes-

These fine slices were then viewed in an electron microscope. The team reported last week in the journal *Cosmochemical Acta* that when they looked at the magnetic particles lengthwise, they found a dark line running up the centres. "These things grew like a tightly wound spiral staircase, and this line is the axis around which the staircase winds," Dr McSween told *New Scientist*. This pattern of crystal growth is called an axial screw dislocation, and is only found on Earth at fumaroles, volcanic vents where hot gases emerge from the ground, condensing to form whiskers that grow like a staircase. It has not been found in magnetite produced by living things. Defenders of the life on Mars hypothesis argue that this was only one plank in their platform, and that the rest remains intact.



SCIENCE BRIEFING Nigel Hawkes

The bees that do a bird's job

LAST Christmas Dave Kelly and Jenny Ladley of the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, revealed the sad story of the decline of a variety of mistletoe with exploding flower buds. The plant was threatened because the buds cannot open themselves, but need a bird to pop them open and pollinate the plants. Native birds with the right twist-grip needed to open the buds are becoming scarce, putting the future of the plants in jeopardy. In this week's *Nature*, they provide a more encouraging follow-up. In the absence of birds, tiny solitary bees of the genus *Filaeus* have proved up to the job of popping the buds. They are not as good as the birds, but they still double the number of seeds ripened per flower, which could be the difference between extinction and survival for the mistletoe.

An early start to trading

STONE Age man sailed across the Pacific 6,000 years ago, according to tell-tale traces of the mineral obsidian found at an archaeological site in Borneo. This puts back the earliest date for long distance trading across the Pacific by 2,500 years. Archaeologists Stephen Chia and Robert Tykot told a meeting of the Materials Research Society in Boston earlier this month that the flecks of the volcanic black mineral found at Bukit

Tengkorak originated more than 2,000 miles away to the east, on the island of New Britain and one of the Admiralty Islands. There are no sources of obsidian close to the Borneo site.

The claim is based on the relative abundance of 11 different compounds in the mineral. Materials derived from the sediments in which the obsidian was found have been carbon-dated to 4,000 BC. Previously, the first evidence of long-distance trading dates to 1,600 BC, when seafarers left traces of pottery, obsidian, and other ornaments across the central Pacific. If accepted, the finding is likely to affect understanding of how and when the islands of the Pacific were peopled.

Joe Joseph orders a suit from Savile Row via Shanghai; Jane Shilling hasn't a thing to put on

Taking the measure of the man

Just because clothes say a lot about a man, don't rush to false conclusions. For example, when you look at most men strolling along the street — jacket slightly too tight, trousers so short that they look as if they're reeling with embarrassment from those scuffed shoes below, white shirt collar tipped to mask yesterday's sweat stains — it is easy to assume that it took them all of six minutes to get dressed that morning. But if you bothered to stop to ask them, you'd discover that it took only three minutes.

There is an important scientific message hidden in here concerning how we men hypothesise about our appearance. We hypothesise that wearing an anonymous navy business suit ensures that, no matter which navy business suit we choose, we will look (a) much the same, and (b) more or less presentable.

All men believe this immutable Newtonian law until they reach that stage in their sartorial progress when they come face-to-face with a full-length mirror.

This is the moment when many men decide to buy a decent suit. (Many others, of course, decide that it's cheaper to throw away their full-length mirror.)

But what kind of suit? Bespoke or off-the-peg? Is there really much difference between a hand-sewn, made-to-measure suit and an off-the-peg two-piece? Apart from the fact that the bespoke suit fits you without some salesman frantically clutching six inches of surplus waistband as you gauge how you look in the mirror.

The big difference is that a bespoke suit, cut specifically for your body, tends to hang well. Of course, the off-the-peg also hangs well, but usually only on the peg. An off-the-peg suit fits perfectly if you have broad but slim shoulders, along with a flatish, oblong body.

Does this sound like you? If does? Then, once on, the suit will look exactly how it does on the hanger, because if this really is your shape, the chances are that you probably are a hanger. If you also have sharply creased, paper-thin legs that fold in two, sing Hosanna because your clothes-shopping problems are over.

As for the rest of us, the minute we get those tweeds off the hanger and put them on, the ancient suit gods become so enraged at being disturbed that they immediately congregate for emergency protest rallies in unflattering places such as the abdomen, or shoulders (left or right, but never both simultaneously or symmetrically). At this point, those who are rich enough (or barmy enough?) to spend £2,000 on a suit head for Savile Row.

If you want your clothes to make a loud statement, don't go shopping in Savile Row — buy a T-shirt that says "I feel porky for Miss Piggy". In Alan Bennett's play *An Englishman Abroad*, the thing that Guy Burgess pines for most in his drab Soviet exile is a suit from his London tailor that would free him from the tyranny of Moscow tailors who "dress you up like a bloody beaver".

But who can afford to buy suits in Savile Row? Not many Englishmen, though that's hardly your problem or mine.

Bespoke tailoring in England has changed dramatically over the past few years with the



Marking up: precision is the operative word

arrival of hipper, often slightly cheaper tailors such as Timothy Everest, Richard James, Oswald Boateng and Mark Powell. Some, like Everest — who kicked out Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible* — offer a semi-bespoke suit that cuts the man-hours, and the price, sharply.

Even trend-conscious Ralph Lauren has brought out a pricey Purple Label, which is hand-made in Savile Row, though not made-to-measure. And jumping on Savile Row's well-cut coat-tails, Levi Strauss recently began offering a made-to-measure service for its denim jeans. But bespoke still hadn't changed enough for most men to abandon the high street.

Then, a couple of years ago, it struck Hugh Holland, managing director of Kilgour French & Stanbury — one of the Row's premier league tailors — that many young men were happily shelling out £600-£800 for Italian designer-name suits which often didn't even fit them.

About the same time, he chanced on a tailoring workshop in Shanghai's old commercial centre, which had kept alive Savile Row bespoke tailoring skills from the prewar days when Shanghai was one of the world's great cities and the Peace Hotel hummed with the voices of well-dressed English colonialists with a Chinese accent enjoying the high life.

He put the tailors to the test, taught them the Kilgour techniques, tried them out on his friends and is now thrilled enough with the result to launch the £699 Savile Row suit, measured and cut out in the Row and then air-freighted to Shanghai for sewing before being flown back to London for a final fitting.

Kilgour, "has made suits for the actors Cary Grant, Fred Astaire, Robert Mitchum, Rex Harrison and Tom Selleck. Lord Forrester and Chris

Eubank are also customers. His sister company, Bernard Weatherill, also housed at 8 Savile Row, makes equestrian outfits for the Queen, the Prince of Wales and other royals.

Kilgour is not ready to jeopardise its reputation, which is why it has spent so long shunting to Shanghai and back to make sure that the Chinese workshop can guarantee consistent quality.

The hand-tailored, two-piece suits, in Holland & Sherry cloth, take about a month from the time you are measured up to walking out with it on your back. And once the cutters in London know your measurements, you can reorder by telephone or fax, which makes it the ultimate in armchair, mail-order shopping.

Let's face it, £700 is a lot of dosh to pay for a suit. But if you're the sort of person who is happy to pay that much for a suit, then it's a bargain. You get the eye of an expert cutter, such as John McCabe, who measures you ever so politely without laughing at your physical curiosities or asking why you stuff so much ancient paperwork into your pockets (he just tweaks his measurements to cope); the measuring and the cutting is half the expertise of Savile Row. You get civilised service.

You get a chance to fish for gossip about famous clients' kooky habits. (No luck, McCabe is too discreet for that sort of thing.) And you get a hand-sewn suit that fits and which will, so Kilgour swears, last for years after that fancy Italian number has grown saggy from repeated trips to the dry-cleaner.

But Mr Holland isn't saying that the suit is as perfect as those made for around £2,200 by Kilgour's own tailors, who sit cross-legged in its Savile Row basement. "To get 10 or 15 per cent better quality you have to pay 50 per cent more," he explains.

And nor is Kilgour doing it because it expects to make a fortune, nor because Hugh Holland is aching to do a favour for misguided men who deserve more out of a £700 suit than they are getting from Milanese boutiques. The reason for this adventure is that Mr Holland is worried about where Kilgour's future British clients (currently about a fifth of business) will emerge from.

Savile Row customers are traditionally aged over 50; partly because that is when they have cash to spare, partly because good living has distended their bodies into a shape that is trickier to shovel elegantly into an off-the-peg suit. But what worries Mr Holland is that when the current generation of thirtysomethings reaches 50, they will have lost the tradition of graduating to Savile Row.

"There is an ulterior motive in this," he says. "I want people to fall in love with bespoke clothing and then entrance them into moving into our suits made in Savile Row. The new suits, labelled 'S Savile Row', are aiming at 30 to 45-year-olds, an age group which we are missing entirely at the moment."

Kilgour is braced to make 30 suits a month, many from customers coming back for repeat orders once they see the standard of workmanship. You know how it is, you order one smart Chinese suit and two months later you fancy ordering another one.



Getting the hang of it: Joe Joseph steps out in his made-to-measure suit from Kilgour

What shall I wear this Christmas?

THE goose is ordered, the kitchen stuffed with nets full of Brussels sprouts and clementines, Brazil nuts and shallots.

The cupboard under the stairs is clanking with Chateau-bottled m&dc and ill-concealed on top of the wardrobe is a pile of socks

and hankies and bath salts and cuddly toys quite sufficient to equip a sizeable United Nations humanitarian aid initiative. So why do I still feel so miserable about Christmas?

Because I haven't got anything to wear, that's why. This business of not a thing to put

on is largely absent from my day-to-day life. To work I wear a pair of trousers that are not jeans, plus a matching knee-length sweater from Marks & Spencer; and at home I wear a pair of Romeo Gigli hipster jeans, which are so unutterably cool that I'm surprised the shop agreed to sell them to me — and a knee-length Marks & Spencer sweater.

There is, I like to think, a certain sparse elegance about my solution to the quotidian problem of clothing the naked. But somehow, on Christmas Day, jeans and a sweater don't quite cut it.

For a start, everyone else around the festive board will have made An Effort. My parents will be wearing souped-up versions of their usual Sunday finery, which in

my father's case means flannels, a cavalry twill jacket, the funny hat out of his cracker and a pair of gold-rimmed half-moon spectacles so that he can read the little slip of paper with a joke from said cracker; and in my mother's will be something from Jaeger with a full skirt in luminous purple silk, plus her Good Pearls and a tea-towel around her waist with which to fend off any impertinent squirts of molten goose fat.

My son will have been forcibly inserted into his adorable little red corduroy britches from Bonpoint and the matching cream Vivella blouse with stumpwork sheep embroidered on the collar, and told that Father Christmas and Rudolph are watching him carefully, and will be straight back to repossess all his presents at the very first sign of any attempt to change into jeans and a sweatshirt. But what, oh what shall I be wearing?

In the past, this question is not one that would have given me a moment's anxiety. In my courting days, which coincided precisely with my church-going days — possibly because all the eligible chaps in the village sang in the choir, deliciously clad in floor-length black cassocks and floppy white surplices — the bells for midnight Mass

would find me tripping on my cream calf Manolo Blahnik stilettos into St John the Baptist's Church in a get-up that a New York drag queen might have discarded as a shade over the top.

One year, I seem to remember, it was a Fifties dress and jacket from the Oxfam shop in cream Chinese silk, embroidered all over with little cream flowers and birds, which had a completely separate underdress with its very own whalebone stays in all the seams.

Kneeling in my gossamer stockings on the dank stone floor I froze, lips turning blue beneath the Faloma Picasso Mon Rouge lipstick.

But it was all well worth it, because my object of desire at the time, a corpulent boy who sang the descent to *Hark the Herald* in a thrilling baritone, later said Merry Christmas to me in what struck me as a very significant fashion.

The arrival of a child had a dampening effect both on the social life and the wardrobe. The latter looks as though it has been visited by the four horsemen of the sartorial apocalypse, who have systematically eliminated anything that requires dry-cleaning, leaving behind a sea of utilitarian machine-washables in shades of Marmite, vegetable purée and fruit yoghurt.

And the candlelit, holly-spiked parties of old seem to have dried up, to be replaced by long telephone conversations with friends about isn't Christmas hell.

It is doubtless this somewhat unchristian state of affairs that brought on a moment of madness last week.

I took my credit card, and I went to the West End, and there I bought a black lace frock with a sapphire blue underskirt and petticoat straps, a matching pair of black lace shoes, and an angora cardigan spangled all over with sapphire sequins.

I think I must have thought that if I bought the frock, the party invitation would surely follow. It hasn't, of course. But guess what I'll be wearing on Christmas Day.

Last night on the street — today both safe at St Mungo's

It probably says a lot about St Mungo's that when we take people off the street, we find room for their best friend too. Being in St Mungo's means a clean, warm bed in a safe haven. It means decent treatment and friendly, acceptable help. There never has been any taint of chilly, Victorian charity about St Mungo's. It's probably one of the reasons why the Association has been so successful over the years. But that very success has brought its own problems. Demands on us grow year by year. People who were in long stay mental institutions are now semi-permanent guests in St Mungo hostels. We make it our policy not to turn anyone away from our direct access hostels if it can be avoided. And once we accept people we do all we can to rehabilitate, retrain and resettle them. So we have set ourselves very high standards indeed. Will you help us maintain those standards? We would be so grateful and so would the homeless of London, not to mention their dogs. Please would you send whatever you can afford, with the coupon below, to: the St Mungo Association, Room A3, Atlantic House, 1-3 Rockley Road, London W14 0DJ. (Charity exempt from registration, friendly society number 205 988)



St Mungo's

I should like to support St Mungo's work with the homeless of London and I enclose a cheque/PO for £..... or please debit my Visa/Access card no.
Exp. date: Signed:
Name (please print):
Address:
If you can't help us at the moment, do fill in and send the coupon and we will keep you informed of our work.

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

SPORTS ARTS

The big match. The all important...
Liverpool and Newcastle

Try your luck in the quiz of the sporting year

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



RADIO

Dame Judi Dench leads Radio 4's Boxing Day treats, narrating A Wizard of Earthsea



OPERA

Mozart for the Christmas season: The Marriage of Figaro comes to the Queen Elizabeth Hall



MUSIC

1996 and all that was it Oasis's year, or just a mirage? Times critics look back



FILM

Anthony Hopkins plays the artist in the new Merchant-Ivory film, Surviving Picasso

There are times when a nerve in the nation is hit. Newspapers are seasoned in this. They can ignite a political scandal or expose a business racket or rattle skeletons in various Cabinets and if the country is, by a mysterious process, ready for it, it becomes the talk of the nation.

When a nation watches and weeps

Jimmy McGovern is certainly that. A stammerer until the age of eight, one of whose brothers had, literally, to "translate" for him: a clever Catholic boy who alone in all his large family won a scholarship and though brilliant at English did not thrive in that environment of the Liverpool Catholic elite; a young man of many apparently dead-end jobs from the age of 16; and by luck and judgment a writer who got himself through work on the stage in Liverpool to the forming furnace of Brookside, to the phenomenon of Cracker and now Hillsborough, which strikes me as his central work.

His talent grows. His heart is Dickensian. His own adult past — gambling, drinking, religious trouble — feeds him yet. He is a football fanatic and a terrible critic of much of the modern footballing business. Hillsborough left him speechless with rage and grief and years later he reached for his pen. We had a tragedy on our hands which, with all apologies for patronising, was Third World in its size and poverty of excuse. An antiquated, dangerous spectator-distribution system met an inadequate police force and the disaster turned stupidity into tragedy and accusations of incompetence.



This shocked us all. What is remarkable is that a single play on television could — years later — recall and even advance that shock. If ever we wanted to contemplate the effect of a mere television drama against hours and columns of talk and articles, then this would be the test case of the past decade.

I do, however, believe that television can have impact (news and sport are the best examples of this) but now and then it can happen elsewhere and Hillsborough was a rare drama because apart from its intrinsic dramatic qualities it had and continues to have impact. What added to its force was football. It was a play about injustice. It was a play about the tragedy of the innocent. It was a play, alas in our country today, about authority losing its head. But it also rode on the back of a game which has become a cohesive and bonding forum in our society. Those who scoff at this, let

them scoff. There have been lesser and more trivial flags around which we have gathered and to great effect as a nation. Football, for fun as well as for sport, has taken up some of the space left by so much else as we have regrouped in the past fifty years. And Hillsborough was also football's tragedy. McGovern's gift is that not only does he run with the grain of deep popular feeling, he has developed the ability to express it in a heightened, even an operatic way which does not betray its origins. He is, like many fine writers, a man who knows the People and who speaks for the People in a voice the People would like to own and yet he can put what he says into a form which, in a capsule of time, portrays a universal feeling. Hillsborough was like a wound on the body of British television. It

is a wound which will leave a scar. Lord Taylor of Gosforth's reaction to the disaster was a most powerful and moving tribute both to him and to the constant possibility of decency which exists in our system. McGovern articulated the cry of the heart of a country which longed for justice and catharsis. And it is to the glory of our television that he could and did do it — and with such force — on the most commercial channel, in what is often considered an over-competitive and declining television economy of worth. Hillsborough did many things for many people. For the bereaved of Liverpool, for our undoubted British sense of fairness, for our wholly admirable determination to face the failure of the police even though we know that to do this is far from damning them all; but also as very few programmes have done this year, it showed once again that the mundane little box in the corner of the room can, come the author, come the time, speak to and shake the nation.

A feast for the eyes this Yuletide

From testosterone tap to gender-bending ballet, it's a bumper Christmas for dance on the small screen. Debra Craine reports

Christmas is traditionally the time when dance gets one of its rare look-ins on British television. Whether it is because a Boxing Day ballet fulfils our need for a little intellectual stimulation after a feast of schlock escapism, or whether we simply have more time to savour the slower pace of arts programmes, the festive season is the dance season on the small screen.

"When you get into the holiday season the rigorous scheduling thing is much more relaxed," she says. "And you have the opportunity to offer a greater variety of one-offs and programmes with differing durations. As well, Christmas is a natural time to watch television and to relax into a more extended performance experience."

The range this year is impressively wide — and not a Nutcracker in sight. Predictably, ITV goes for the populist end of the market with Dance! (Friday, 4.10pm), a glitzy extravaganza presented by Torville and Dean in which Dorey Bussell does Balanchine, Wayne Sleep does Charlie Chaplin and the cast of Riverdance do the Irish jig. Channel 4 also takes a lighter-hearted approach with its Six Steps to Heaven (Jan 2, 7.30pm), a "look at six of the biggest dance crazes to have come out of America". The programme explores how the cake walk, the Charleston, Lindy hop, twist, disco and breakdancing have all in their turn captured the spirit of an age, illustrating the history

lesson with some wonderfully evocative archive footage. BBC2 is presenting the all-male Australian sensation Tap Dogs (Dec 31, 8.50pm), a troupe of fleet-footed blokes who marry macho swagger to virtuosic traditional tap. The men also have it in BBC2's showpiece Boxing Day offering, the Adventures in Motion Pictures Swan Lake (8.30pm). Matthew Bourne's brilliantly unorthodox staging, with its corps de ballet of male swans, turns conventional ballet symbols on their heads and makes them work for a late 20th-century audience. The BBC filming of the award-winning production (still running at London's Piccadilly Theatre) will surely delight all but the most diehard traditionalists. The latter can satisfy themselves with New York City Ballet Salutes George Balanchine (BBC2, Jan 1, 2.30pm), a mixed bill of his ballets that pays tribute to the versatility and genius of the late choreographer over several decades.



Adventures in Motion Pictures in Swan Lake: one of the highlights of the Christmas dance season on television

There is a television programme to satisfy every dance taste

Last night on the street — today both safe at St Mungo's

It probably says a lot about St Mungo's that when we take people off the street, we find room for their best friend too. Being in St Mungo's means a clean, warm bed in a safe haven. It means decent treatment and friendly, acceptable help. There never has been any taint of chilly, Victorian charity about St Mungo's. It's probably one of the reasons why the Association has been so successful over the years. But that very success has brought its own problems. Demands on us grow year by year. People who were in long stay mental institutions are now semi-permanent guests in St Mungo hostels. We make it our policy not to turn anyone away from our direct access hostels if it can be avoided. And once we accept people we do all we can to rehabilitate, retrain and resettle them. So we have set ourselves very high standards indeed. Will you help us maintain those standards? We would be so grateful and so would the homeless of London, not to mention their dogs. Please would you send whatever you can afford, with the coupon below, to: The St Mungo Association, Room A3, Atlantic House, 1-3 Rockley Road, London W14 0DJ.



Form for St Mungo's donation: I should like to support St Mungo's work with the homeless of London and I enclose a cheque/PO for £... or please debit my Visa/Access card no. Exp. date. Name (please print). Address.

But it is two documentaries — one made by Channel 4, the other "in association with the BBC" — that offer the most unusual and insightful look at the art form. Channel 4's Just Dancing Around? is a three-part series (from Friday, 7.30pm) that aims to probe the elusive creative process of three modern choreographers: while Frederick Wiseman's three-hour film Ballet, which follows American Ballet Theatre for nine weeks as they prepare for a European tour, is the ultimate fly-on-the-wall dance documentary. "It's important to come up with good ideas for dance,"

comment. Just three hours of painstaking rehearsals, angry shouting matches, fundraising headaches, bored dancers, and — at the end of it all — the thrill of performance. Wiseman's film is about an hour too long, and it cruelly fails to identify its stars the recently departed trio of Agnes de Mille, Michèle Sorens and Ulysses Dove among them, but it remains gripping viewing for balletomanes. And how many balletomanes are out there in tellyland? According to Bob Lockyer, BBC TV's executive producer, dance programmes, audiences for Christmas

comment. Just three hours of painstaking rehearsals, angry shouting matches, fundraising headaches, bored dancers, and — at the end of it all — the thrill of performance. Wiseman's film is about an hour too long, and it cruelly fails to identify its stars the recently departed trio of Agnes de Mille, Michèle Sorens and Ulysses Dove among them, but it remains gripping viewing for balletomanes. And how many balletomanes are out there in tellyland? According to Bob Lockyer, BBC TV's executive producer, dance programmes, audiences for Christmas

Still hungry after the ham

BY BEGINNING his first solo offstage and emerging triumphantly from the wings at its climax, Courtney Pine signalled his intentions from the off. He then shouted "Good evening!" to the cheering multitude and, dissatisfied with the volume of the response, repeated the process until the audience's enthusiasm reached the level required to be conveniently channelled into participation, through clapping to the beat or dancing in the aisles, in the night's proceedings.

Such end-of-the-piece-show behaviour is extremely rare in jazz these days, but Pine has been bucking trends since bursting on to the scene in the mid-1980s with a debut recording, Journey to the Urge Within, that was marketed, and consequently sold, like a pop album. Deeply suspicious of what he believes is the tetchy elitism and willful obscurity of much jazz, he has seized every opportunity to make his music as accessible and relevant to current musical trends as possible, blending it with everything from

Bank with the sole intention of "having a good time", and this he proceeded to do, embellishing everything he played with humour and gimmickry. The problem with this approach became apparent when he threw in a spot of playing two horns at once during Prince of Peace: neither was played particularly well, and the irresistible comparison with the late Roland Kirk, who used routinely to employ this double-horn technique to great effect, did Pine no favours. Dito his circular breathing on soprano à la Evan Parker, his David Murray-influenced impassioned screaming tenor climaxes, and his attempts to organise the audience into impromptu choirs in the manner of Bobby McFerrin. Without a clear artistic context, such stunts are the mark of an entertainer rather than a musician, and it was difficult to resist the conclusion that considerable musical talent remains untapped in Pine.

CHRIS PARKER



THEATRE TOKENS Theatre Tokens make a unique gift, and are available at most branches of WH Smith, through Tickets London 0171 416 6012, or from our 24 hour Tokeline 0171 240 8800

SWIFTCALL LOW COST INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS. A minimum pre payment of £25 entitles you to £25 of Swiftcall talktime. Penny for penny that's over 4 hrs to the USA. All you need is a tone phone, and you almost certainly already have one. You're not limited to just using your own phone either, use a mobile, pay phone, hotel phone, or even a friend's today! CALL US NOW 0800 769 0000

Hard time bleak hope



POP

Punk's young pretenders: Ash crown a lively year with a gig at the Point, Dublin



BOOKS

Gerald Seymour explores the black heart of the Sicilian Mafia in his new thriller, Killing Ground



DANCE

Belinda Hatley makes her debut as Cinderella in Ashton's ballet at Covent Garden



RECITAL

Alfredo Peri continues his Wigmore Hall cycle of all Beethoven's piano sonatas

ARTS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

Hard times, bleak house

Dressed in tartan slippers, fingerless gloves and a grubby frock coat, Richard Briers sits at the centre of a bare, black stage. He stares morosely into the audience like one of Samuel Beckett's ulcerous tramps.

A Christmas Carol Lyric, Hammersmith

theatrical. A single naked lightbulb illuminates a cast of eight Victorian undertakers who shuffle through a bewildering number of guises to present the Dickensian kaleidoscope of lives that Scrooge has ruined.

inroads as a Scottish Mrs Cratchit and Scrooge's nephew Fred, whom Magni perversely plays like an Italian mummy's boy. Their physical skills are impressively artful, but I don't think art is ever going to be enough here.



Richard Briers - "a wonderfully forgivable skinflim" as Scrooge - surrounded by the cast of a Christmas Carol mainly notable for its gloominess

CONCERTS: Berlioz's choral epic, L'Enfance du Christ, superbly performed in Manchester; carols and orchestral music in London

Night of the noëls

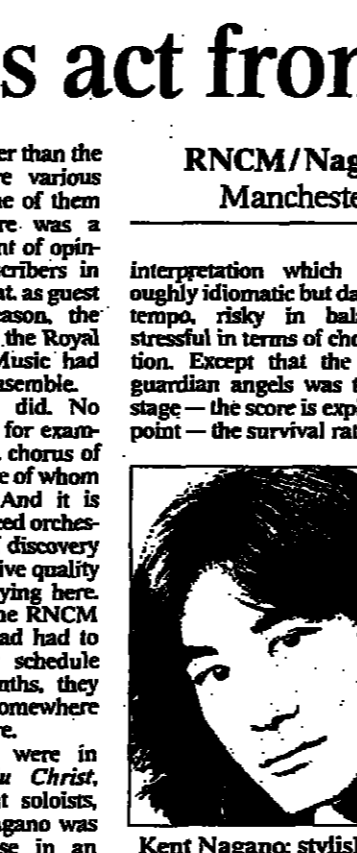
Polyphony St John's TAKE a couple of dozen choirs 20th-century Christmas carols, group them imaginatively, add a dash of plainchant, and you have a winning recipe.

Class act from students

RNCM/Nagano Manchester Interpretation which was thoroughly idiomatic but dangerous in tempo, risky in balance, and stressful in terms of choral intonation.

Clearly in charge

LSO/Fruhbeck de Burgos Barbican AFTER some light-hearted Rossini at the outset, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos was concerned, in his conducting of the London Symphony Orchestra, to give his listeners more of a tonally rough ride in the rest of the programme.



Kent Nagano: stylish Berlioz



GERALD LARNER



NOEL GOODWIN

Large grid of theatre listings including Opera & Ballet, Theatres, Comedy, and Musical listings with show titles, venues, and times.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Matthew Parris



Our sympathy for victims has become an obsession. When did we stop admiring winners?

What is it about the British that causes us to offer pride of place on public pedestals to the victim? Is it healthy? Have we become a nation of victim-worshippers? I struggle for a way of asking this which does not sound offensive or even neo-fascist, but I must take the risk.

The question resurfaced when I read last week of this year's "Children of Courage" awards. With a couple of exceptions, the children whose courage was cited by the newspapers had not acted courageously; they had been the victims of horrific attacks or accidents, or of illness. They had had no occasion to act bravely, they had not acted at all. They had reacted, as people often do when struck down, with admirable pluck.

If the award had been couched not as commendation but as sympathy, it would have been appropriate. It was not appropriate, however, to attribute to these children a virtue. I know it is common to speak of the "courage" people show in suffering, or with which they "fight" illness, and I am not insensitive of the unending multitude of humans and animals when faced, in circumstances beyond their control, by pain, but to endure is instinctive. Cornered by fate, most animals are surprisingly strong, we cope when we have to. More uncommon is to choose adversity: to volunteer to be brave. This, which is extraordinary, is courage in the complete sense.

Nothing that comforts a child who has suffered can be without value, especially if by extension this comforts others. But we also need to spur children actively to do things, brave things, even dangerous things, things which entail a positive act of choice. Children should learn pity and receive pity, but they should also learn optimism and confidence, and to admire action.

Invited to frame an encouraging message to the young in Britain, it seemed as if the world of adults had instead sought examples of the young as victims, and embraced the victims. It was instructive to note the mawkishness. The press fell upon the fact that the awards were presented by the Duchess of Kent who (as the papers reminded us) suffers from ME.

After the Children of Courage Awards came the Today programme's Personality of the Year Awards. In addition to John Major and a persecuted woman opposition leader in Burma (both, in some degree victim-figures), the field was led by Frances Lawrence, a victim herself, and Ann Pearson of the Snowdrop Appeal, a victim-by-proxy. I offer no criticism of either; both of them have turned suffering to positive account. But be honest: is it

The self-worship of the little man is tangled up with self-pity and resentment

omous letters one always gets from a certain type of Christian (particularly in Wales) whenever one criticises the Church. Beneath mercy and submissiveness, it seems, a warped and astonishingly bitter aggression and intolerance. Try expressing in public even the faintest note of caution about the disablement lobby in Britain and you will be shocked by the hatefulness of the response.

The outpouring of (usually unhelpful) sympathy for some chosen national symbol of victimhood, mingled with hatred for the supposed culprit, is seldom more than a step ahead of an implied appeal for sympathy by extension for "us" too, abused by "them". Its keynote illnesses are bulimia and anorexia, and its patron saint is Diana, Princess of Wales. "Abuse" has become the buzzword of the decade.

Victim-worship is a false and sterile religion rarely leading to more than an ornate spot cash appeal, a rash of letters to the editor calling for a lynching, and a demand that some other agency — usually the government — should "do something".

What these crusades of sympathy for victim-totems almost never do is stimulate real changes of heart or behaviour among the rest of us. They serve, I believe, and are intended subliminally, to serve as substitutes for both.

Differences of denomination matter less than avoiding the secular relativism of most education

On Saturday, *The Times* carried a fascinating report by Ruth Gledhill on the worry of two leading Roman Catholic public schools that so many Roman Catholics are now sending their sons to Eton. Though this is only one corner of the big debate on religious education, it is one of which I have had particular experience. As a Roman Catholic, I was educated at Charterhouse, a Church of England school, although Downside was only a few miles from where my family lived in Somerset. In the next generation, our elder daughter took her A levels at Downside and was even appointed deputy head boy. Our eldest son also went to Downside, by his choice; our younger son went to Eton. I recently gave a talk to the sixth form at Ampleforth, not for the first time. To complete the connection, our second daughter took her A levels at Charterhouse, which itself now has an excellent new head master from Eton.

All four schools seem to me to be very good. In the 1980s, when I knew it as a parent, Eton was one of the few old English institutions which was still working exceptionally well, probably better than it did in its most celebrated days of the 18th or 19th centuries. I do not doubt that some parents do send their sons there because they think that will help them to network their way through life, but there are much better reasons.

I know of no school with the same combination of a strong historic tradition, an excellent academic education — Etonians routinely find that the teaching they get in the sixth form is superior to that in the universities they subsequently attend — and the capacity to adjust to the temperament and interest of the individual boys. When my son left Eton, I thought he had been to what was probably the best boys' secondary school on earth, and that he was very lucky to have gone there.

Throughout his time at Eton there

Religious schools against the world

was an excellent and holy Catholic chaplain; we used, as a family, to attend Sunday Mass there. Catholics were given every encouragement to practise their religion. And there were even a couple of conversions, not from Anglicanism but from agnosticism; boys brought up with no religion found that the Catholic Church was the one they wished to join. There are now said to be some 300 Roman Catholic boys at Eton, which is considerably more than there were in those years. Obviously 300 boys or more might have gone to Ampleforth or Downside must seem a big loss to those schools.

The case for specifically Roman Catholic education is that it gives a much more profound and complete Catholic experience. Father Leo Chamberlain, the Headmaster of Ampleforth, told Ruth Gledhill: "The opportunity to go to Sunday Mass is not the same as an education immersed in the culture, spiritual values and moral codes of the Church." This is obviously a strong argument. Both Ampleforth and Downside are great Benedictine monasteries, and the worship of the monks does penetrate the whole life of the school. Because we live in the West Country, I have known more old boys of Downside than of Ampleforth, but both schools seem to give a lifelong foundation in faith to a high proportion of their pupils. It is as though the Gregorian chant enters into their souls.

All questions of the psychology of

religion are complex. Going to Charterhouse, I am sure, suited me better than the spartan Downside of those wartime years would have done. I was left with a strong sense of the Anglican tradition, and of the beauty of the old Anglican liturgy. I have found great Anglican divines, Jeremy Taylor, George Barclay, Joseph Butler, John Wesley, have played a much larger part in my religious development than is common among Roman Catholics. Wesley was himself an Old Charterhouse, which is an extra connection.

Father Anthony Sutch, now Headmaster of Downside, but in the 1980s my elder son's housemaster — and a brilliant one — has observed that "schools are being judged by league tables rather than by ethos". The Catholic schools do not concentrate on league tables; they think they have a duty to educate, rather than a duty to educate only those boys who find examinations easy. They have an unusually high proportion of boys from abroad, who may have to take English exams in a second language that they are still learning. Both Downside and Ampleforth are very generous with bursaries for those who would otherwise be unable to afford the fees, and the bursaries are not given solely on academic grounds.

The headmasters have appealed to the Roman Catholic bishops. I doubt if they will get much comfort from them. Cardinal Hume himself was Abbot of Ampleforth, and taught there, but the bishops are probably more concerned with Catholic education in the state than in the private sector. The demand for Catholic education in the grant-maintained and state sector has never been higher. Tony Blair is not the only parent to recognise the quality of schools such as the admirable Oratory School in London. Such schools have two advantages which Ampleforth and Downside fully share. They believe in the importance of a solid traditional education, and they believe in teaching the Christian religion as a living framework for life.

Some years ago I was discussing the problems of Islamic education with a group of Islamic leaders from Glasgow. Despite the risk of social alienation, I believe that the Islamic community has a right to state support for its religious schools, and have always supported that claim. They told me that in Glasgow, if their children could not be sent to Islamic schools they preferred Catholic schools, because they teach a definite morality based on religion. What they feared was the secular, non-moral environment. Essentially that is the appeal of all the Catholic schools to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. More than a tenth of the boys at Ampleforth are now non-Catholic. That seems to me an excellent thing.

The modern dividing line is not between schools of one Christian denomination and those of another, but between schools that teach a morality based on religion and schools that do not. If Western culture is in decline, in the rest of Europe as much as in Britain or the United States, it is because teachers have retired from the attempt to provide the moral basis for life. Modern teaching is, of course, much more difficult. Moral relativism, widespread divorce, drugs on the street corner, peer-group pressure taking over from parental and school authority, and the decline of religious belief have invaded every school, however well run. In this, Eton, Ampleforth and Downside are all on the same side, and it is the side of the angels. The Eton solution, which has been followed by Ampleforth, must be the right one: if Eton is an ecumenical school in the Anglican tradition, Downside and Ampleforth should become equally ecumenical schools in the Roman Catholic tradition. It is not what divides but what unites the Churches that matters; they face a common enemy in the moral deterioration of modern living.

William Rees-Mogg

My abiding affection for the Church of England was a benefit I gained by going to an Anglican school. Nor, in the end, did my experience at Charterhouse in any way alienate me from the Roman Catholic Church as an institution. I know that many people find all institutions of religion a difficulty; I have never found that a problem, and delight in the great Roman Levitan, "mightiest of the fishes of the deep", which still swims so sturdily in the ocean of faith.

There is some criticism of the Catholic schools because they do not always shine in league tables. Indeed

Who will hold the cards?

Michael Gove shuffles the political pack

For politicians this Christmas there is one thing even more delicious after dinner than a glass of Glenfiddich: playing the political futures market. While other households may unwind with Cluedo or Happy Families, politicians, particularly Tories, will shy away from games that depend on skulduggery being unearthed or fidelity celebrated. Instead, MPs will indulge themselves by playing Fantasy Cabinet.

Requiring nothing more than an active imagination and ungovernable ambition, Fantasy Cabinet is the country house cousin of the saloon bar exercise Fantasy Football. While the latter is an excuse to argue over the merits of Shearer or Wright in the pub, Fantasy Cabinet is simply a structured way of MPs comparing the merits of ministerial aspirants.

Among two groups of politicians Fantasy Cabinet is being played with greater relish this year than most. In the shire fastnesses of Euro-sceptic Ultras and across Islington pine the prospect of Tory defeat at the general election provides an opportunity to give the pack a proper shuffle and discard the jokers.

For the revolutionary defeatists on the Right, the most enjoyable fantasy is constructing a Shadow Cabinet whose unapologetic Toryism would allow it to exploit fully Blair's troubles, not least over Europe, and sweep back to power. The sceptics are not short of men with pretensions to play the king, with Michael Howard and Michael Portillo prepared to contemplate action up to withdrawal to secure a satisfactory renegotiation of Britain's membership of the EU.

But for the Ultras who most devoutly desire a purging of the party before returning to office it is John Redwood's ascetic frame upon which the greatest hopes rest. For his decision to contest last year's leadership election and his indefatigable yet icy courteous harrying of the Gov-



ernment's backsliding, he has won a place in the dark hearts of the hardest Right. Having installed Redwood as leader, the disposition of talent in the Cabinet of which the Ultras dream is relatively easy.

Redwood might want to keep a shrewd Scots lawyer as his Lord Chancellor, but it wouldn't be James Mackay. Redwood's opposition to Mackay's divorce reforms has not made for cordiality between them. Instead, a distinguished casualty of a 1997 defeat might move upwards.

A seat in the Upper House with a task of eviscerating Labour's plans for constitutional chaos would be perfect preparation for Lord Rifkind's own stint on the Woolstack.

The other great offices of state fall naturally into sceptic laps. Michael Portillo's Euro-scepticism is of a different kind from Redwood's. Global rather than local, a man more likely to be in Ralph Lauren than cricket whites at the weekend, Mr Portillo's

international perspectives would fit him for the Foreign Office.

Michael Howard's belief in the efficacy of longer sentences could be tested by keeping him at Home Affairs. Peter Lilley, having displayed a determination and imagination in curbing spending at Social Security, should have the chance to apply those skills across the board as Chancellor.

With Angela Knight at Education, William Hague at Environment, Giles Brandreth as Minister for Fun and 1997 entrant David Cameron as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, youth would have its head. Overcoming his ideal Cabinet, our Ultra might fancy himself ennobled as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster before going to bed to sleep the sleep of the pure. In ideology, if not in heart.

As the last drops of British sherry are being drained at Headstrong Hall, the espresso machine is bubbling in a north London kitchen.

While the Tory Ultras dream of their fantasy Shadow Cabinet, Labour's ultra-Modernisers have their ideal top table sketched on the back of a Granita wine list.

Labour *arditti* hope that Blair will ensure that power is in the finely manicured hands of the Modernisers, rather than the calloused grip of old Labour figures. Of course, some old socialists such as Robin Cook and John Prescott are beasts too big to put out to grass. Cook is safely corralled in the Foreign Office, though he yearns for economic influence, but Prescott is a problem. The Modernisers do not want him as Deputy Prime Minister, a Labour Heseltine with an even greater propensity to intervene. There are two possibilities that entertain them, either suzerainty over a super-department combining Environment and Transport, playing to his expertise, or the Home Office. Although Jack Straw is dear to modernising breasts and hopes to be

Home Secretary, some Blairites feel that a reassuringly proletarian presence at the Home Office would win over the police, much in the manner of the genial, socially conservative James Callaghan.

The real pleasure for the Modernisers, however, rests in drafting new talent, not rearranging old. Frank Field may almost be too independent-minded for Social Security, but why not put the Birkenhead Anglican in the Northern Ireland Office? With Donald Dewar, moving from the Whips' office to become Leader of the House, his current deputy, Nick Brown, could be a chief whip of Urquhartian deviousness. Brian Wilson, a successful publisher as well as historian of Celtic Football Club, has been tipped for Transport. Kim Howells, the man who urged his brothers and sisters in the Labour movement to embrace competition, would delight Modernisers as President of the Board of Trade.

With Tessa Jowell at Health and Harriet Harman at Social Security, Mo Mowlam at Defence and Helen Liddell as Scottish Secretary, four impeccably Blairite ministers would be well-placed to exploit the dearth of female talent on the Tory benches. The dearest modernising wish would, of course, be the building of a broad progressive coalition and a Cabinet seat for a senior figure from another party with similar values. But Ken Clarke may prefer to be where power might really lie after a Labour victory — in Brussels.

Another Cabinet may also be dreamt of this Christmas — John Major's third-term team. The dogged decency of the Prime Minister may set at naught the games of the Tory Ultras and Labour Modernisers. The identity of the man who will choose the next Cabinet will be decided on the hustings where he thrives, and not the salons where they plot. But this Christmas, given the confidence with which both Ultras and Modernisers fantasise, the thought that John Major will be choosing a new Cabinet in the spring seems the most fantastic idea of all.

Peter Riddell will return after Christmas.

Open house

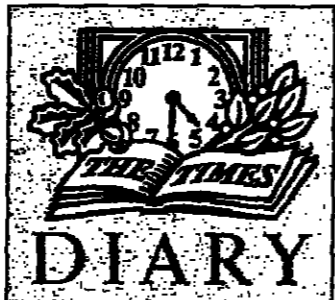
SCOTLAND YARD and Tony Blair are at odds over security at the Labour leader's constituency home, Mirabella, in Trindon Colliery, Co Durham. Special Branch inspected the four-bedroom detached house recently and flinched. It made the Japanese Ambassa-

dor's residence in Lima look like Fort Knox.

Why Blair has a house with the sort of name more suited to a cheap car or Costa flight is not clear. His children, however, are said to be deeply fond of the place. Open fields stretch out behind it and there is a playground next door, all a bracing change from Blair's London home in Islington. If he ever became Prime Minister, though, it is the sort of place likely to bring his protectors out in hives. John Major's home in Huntingdon, by contrast, is set in its own grounds and surrounded by a low wall.

Blair's accommodation, if he wins the election, will prove a nuisance altogether. Plans for the extensive redesign of the Prime Minister's poky flat in No 10 have already been mooted, with Blair's three children in mind.

"Special Branch would much rather Tony lived elsewhere," says Blair's constituency agent, John Burton. "But he wouldn't agree to it. If Tony becomes Prime Minister,



though, things will have to change at Mirabella."

● No film-flam at the Vatican, where Madonna and her child will not be received by the Pope during her visits to Rome to promote her new film. The singer, who did not marry the man who squired her child, dreamt of being received by John Paul II, as Evita Perón had been by Pope Pius XII in 1947. "We have more important things to think about," says the Vatican.

Your honour

FOR Jacques Chirac, the French President, the days after Christmas often mean the Gazette d'Or, the

chi-chi hotel in southern Morocco patronised by the likes of Mick Jagger, Paula Yates and Michael Portillo. This year, however, pressures of work mean he cannot go, to the disappointment of one long-serving member of the hotel staff.

Last year, Chirac suggested honouring a certain Moroccan waiter, not only for his presidential pampering but also for his service in the French Army in North Africa.

The waiter said he would much prefer to go to Mecca. Rita Bennis,

the hotel's English owner, told him to stop being so truculent. He should accept the award and she would pay for him to go to Mecca. So it was agreed. The waiter accepted Chirac's offer, then hot-footed it off on his trip east.

All mine

NEW LABOUR'S pale-fingered suffocation of its party's traditions continues with news that Wentworth, a mining constituency in South Yorkshire, is to be represented at the next election by John Healey, a model new Labour man.

All sharp suits and sharper elbows, Healey has been the press officer for John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC. He is credited with repositioning Monks and the TUC. This is hair-wilting news for Arthur Scargill, whose paleolithic Socialist Labour Party is meant to stand its best chance in old mining areas.

● Bumping into Jeremy Irons at a party last week, a young woman said to him that when he appeared on film, "you've only got one expression". Irons's face passed in the middle of one of his seismic move-



Moss and Depp: whatever next?

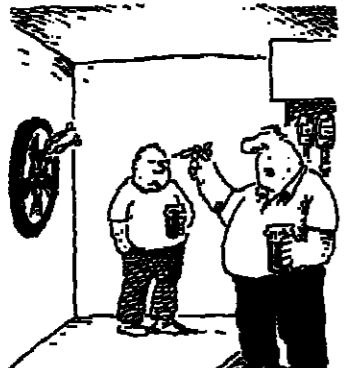
ments; then: "Do you know?" he said. "I think you may be right."

Tattoo you

THRILLING reports on Kate Moss, the fragile supermodel, and her rollicking relationship with Johnny Depp, actor. He has moved into her Manhattan apartment and an engagement may be imminent.

"The couple decided to get an apartment together in New York as a trial situation before they make it official," says Moss's mouthpiece.

Good news for Moss is that Depp has finally done something about the tattoo he had done for his previous girlfriend, Winona Ryder. "Winona Forever" now reads "Wino Forever".



Why the fuss about Shilton? This is my 1,000th game too!



POTS AND KETTLES

Labour must spell out its tax policies and do so soon

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown must make up their minds about taxes. The sooner they do so, the better for Britain and quite possibly for Labour's election chances. As long as the Labour leadership maintains its vow of silence on taxes, the public will understandably remain suspicious and rely on their memories of past Labour governments. The Tory publicity machine will naturally try to persuade voters to assume the worst. Indeed, a Tory campaign to expose Labour's "secret" tax plans will begin in the very first week of the new year.

While Labour remains silent about its intentions, the Tories' strategy will be not only understandable, but also fair. Early this year Clare Short blurted out that a Labour government should be in the business of raising taxes. The Tories immediately claimed that she had revealed Labour's secret tax plans. The Labour leadership's rebuttal was ingenious but bizarre. Labour could not have any "secret" tax plans because it had no plans on taxes at all. Such casuistry will no longer do with just four months to go before a general election. A party which claims to be ready to govern can hardly deny that it has any policies on either public spending or tax.

As long as Labour fails to disclose these policies, voters will be entitled to draw one of two disquieting conclusions. The first possibility is that Labour intends to raise taxes and knows that these plans will be deeply unpopular. It is therefore trying to keep them quiet for as long as possible to deny John Major the easy target he needs to unite his shambling party. Conceivably Mr Blair even hopes to avoid any clear commitments on taxes. He could then enter Downing Street with a free hand to revert to Labour's spendthrift ways.

An alternative explanation for Labour's silence is just as disturbing. Perhaps Mr Blair has decided not to raise taxes, but does

not dare to say so for fear of alienating his own party's left wing. And if Mr Blair is intimidated by his leftwingers, when they are still subject to the discipline of trying to win votes, what chance will he have against them if and when the election is won?

In the weeks ahead, the Tories will do their utmost to whip up public fears on both these counts. The Labour leadership, however, seems unperturbed. Mr Blair is being urged by his advisers to turn the tax campaign against the Tories by focusing on the Government's own record. Treasury figures published just before the Christmas recess confirmed that families on average earnings will pay more in income taxes at the end of this parliament than they did at the beginning. Armed with this fact, Labour will try to turn the Tories' campaign into a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Instead of spelling out Labour's own policies — a "defensive" posture — Mr Blair will counter-attack and make an issue of the Tories' own tax record. After their broken promises, Labour will claim the Tories have "no right" to criticise, or even to question, another party's policies on tax.

This kind of *ad hominem* point-scoring is not only illogical; it is unlikely to help Labour's cause. The issue for voters is not what happened in the past, but what each party will do in the future. Pointing to past Tory tax increases will do nothing to reassure the public about a Labour government's intentions. In fact, it could inflame the fears of the voters: if even the Tories had to put up taxes, Labour may have to raise them even more.

If Mr Blair wants to clarify the economic outlook for businessmen and investors and to convince voters that Labour's punitive tax policies are really gone for good, there is one and only one thing he can do. He must make a full announcement of his plans on taxes and public spending — and do it soon.

NATION OF SHOPKEEPERS

American foreign policy must look beyond trade

As the Cold War ended, Francis Fukuyama acquired great prominence through his thesis that the end of the US-Soviet struggle signalled the universal triumph of democratic values and hence "the end of history". Under President Clinton that process has been taken one step further. For three years American foreign policy has been organised around the primacy of economics. This recent tour of Asia served to reinforce this trend. To many in Washington, trade is the beginning and end of international relations.

To those who question this emphasis comes the retort that economic engagement with seemingly unsavoury regimes represents the Trojan horse that will eventually secure the triumph of democracy. The real consequence of the collapse of communism is then, ironically, the end of politics, with the security issues of the past swamped by the requirements of the GDP.

After four years in office the President appears to have concluded that Asia with its multitude of underdeveloped markets is "exciting", whereas Europe, with its complicated political problems such as Nato expansion and the Balkans, is boring and "old hat". Trade is the new religion and market entry the new God. Perversely, the central intellectual premise of Marxism — that economic man is the whole man — has been swallowed by the US.

The short-term seductiveness of this approach is obvious. The notion that economic engagement can deliver good government after a modest interval has clear attractions. It would be difficult to conduct any cost-benefit analysis of US corporate interests that did not focus on Asia as promising unconquered territory. But this

exclusively materialistic analysis is deeply flawed.

It relies, firstly, on the false assumption that all significant human relations are economic. The demise of the superpower struggle has brought more, rather than less, conflict in much of the world precisely because many disputes, which are rooted in history rather than in economics, had been held in check during the Cold War and have now been released to do their worst. There is no need to accept the entire argument about the clash of civilisations recently presented by Samuel Huntington to see the fundamental importance of differences in the ways that human society is organised.

The second fallacy lies in the calculation that economic engagement produces democratic advance. This argument relies heavily on a small number of cases — Chile, South Korea, arguably Taiwan — drawn from Latin America and relatively small countries in East Asia. There are abundant counter-examples, especially in Asia, of states that have capitalist economies and authoritarian political structures. The theory that China will become more benign towards internal dissent because of the opportunity to purchase American telephones has not produced results so far.

Finally, it is untrue that politics has been disinvented and military issues marginalised by the triumph of the market economy. History has not ended. It never does. It has moved on. There have been many occasions in the past thousand years when commerce has flourished in the temporary absence of disharmony. The old motto "hope for peace, prepare for war" still remains a wise one for political leaders.

GROUSE FOR CHRISTMAS

A Great British Tradition — the seasonal grumble

The real joy of Christmas is neither giving nor receiving, but complaining. Perthshire's finest whisky is not the only famous grouse which should be indulged this midwinter — true traditionalists will also enjoy the cosy familiarity of lathering themselves in indignation, wrapping themselves in righteous wrath and recycling and reworking a series of moans, whinges, jeremiads, imprecations and oaths without which the Christmas season is not truly festive. The turkey tastes better when generously sauced with bile.

Gift-giving is always a rich area for grumbles. Aside from the personal bickering of the wife incredulous that a husband should imagine her a size 16 or the basilisk glare with which a lover might greet a tenderly proffered and elegantly wrapped steam iron, there has been a general parental plaint this year. Demand for the toy astronaut Buzz Lightyear has so far outstripped supply that sightings of the plastic adventurer from outer space are now as rare as honest Tory whips. The banshee keening of mothers too late to buy a Buzz has rent the air of Hamley's and fathers have muttered oaths under their beery breath. The manufacturers blame the unprecedented demand on the surprise success of the video *Toy Story* in which an animated Buzz appears. Cynics will smell a marketing ramp designed to give Buzz, well, buzz.

Wiser heads will realise, however, that Buzz is playing a role in the pantomime of Christmas as hallowed as the dame. He

is the toy which everyone wants but no one can find, the empty glass of nursery fashion. In the past his role has been played by the Cabbage Patch Doll or the Millennium Falcon starship but, whatever the guise, the function is the same. Buzz is this year's yuletide maguffin, the pursuit of which gives parents the chance to enjoy cursing their offspring, themselves and the shops in a triple whammy of delicious ill-grace.

Family aside, food is the easy butt of a Briton's complaint. For several Christmases now it has required increasing ingenuity to rail against the seasonal fare. Turkeys, like secretaries, are better-bred than ever. For those bored of gobblers — from the farm, that is, not the typing-pool — there is an embarrassment of choice. Even the meaneast supermarket groans with geese, ducks, game and exotic fowl. The most appropriate gripe when faced with such bounty is to lament the passing of the simple meals of one's childhood. There is no more satisfying accompaniment to the sight of a son swallowing a richly sauced partridge breast than a small dirge on the inability of the jaded young to appreciate plain white meat, a luxury in its day and none the worse for it now.

But the best complaint that Christmas now provokes is its length. Starting just as the fireworks fade and ending well after Epiphany, the festive season is now almost as long as the other grouse season. In its length, as in so many ways, Christmas is absolutely fair game.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ethical concerns in healthcare law

From Mr David Anderson-Ford

Sir, Your report (December 16) on the rulings by High Court judges compelling women to undergo Caesarean sections illustrates the difficulty of cases which have arisen from the turbulent sphere of healthcare law and ethics to confront the judiciary.

As Lord Browne-Wilkinson stated in the Anthony Bland case (*Alredale NHS Trust v Bland* [1993] 1 All ER 821 (HL)): it seems to me imperative that the moral, social and legal issues raised by this case should be considered by Parliament... If Parliament fails to act, then judge-made law will of necessity through a gradual and uncertain process provide a legal answer to each new question as it arises. But in my judgment that is not the best way to proceed.

Issues of consent and capacity or incapacity to consent are fundamental and troublesome. In spite of the sterling efforts of the Law Commission in this decade to raise the level of national debate, judges continue to be placed in this untenable position.

Perhaps a national standing forum on healthcare law and ethics (along the lines of the 1980s President's Commission in the USA) would provide a more clearly defined and more representative lead. These matters are far too important to be left to judges alone.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ANDERSON-FORD,
37 Canbury Avenue,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
December 17.

From the Honorary Chair of the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services

Sir, One worrying aspect of the recent "forced Caesarean" cases is how they have changed the atmosphere surrounding consent to treatment for pregnant women. Since the first reported court-ordered Caesarean (details, October 14, 1992; *Law*, October 27, 1992) we have come across a number of cases where women who questioned obstetricians' proposed care were told: "If you don't consent, we shall simply go and get a court order."

These incidents include a number of interventions, including induction or augmentation of labour. Given the high and inconsistent intervention rates in many maternity units there is good reason to question the necessity for many of these. In cases where we obtained further details it was clear that the proposed interventions were neither essential nor urgent.

It seems that some obstetricians have seized upon the court decisions to support an authoritarian pattern of care rather than making efforts to improve a two-way communication and respecting the rights of their patients.

It is not the obstetricians but GPs, health visitors, psychiatrists and lay supporters like ourselves who are dealing with the disastrous emotional effects in women who describe their birth experience as "technological rape".

Yours sincerely,
BEVERLEY A. BEECH,
21 Iver Lane, Iver, Buckinghamshire,
December 16.

The right to die

From the General Secretary of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Sir, I was surprised that Dr Gary Slapper failed to mention the common law right of an adult patient to refuse medical treatment, both contemporaneously and in advance, in his article on the involvement of the courts in decisions to withdraw life-support ("When there is life without hope", *Law*, December 10).

It is true, as Dr Slapper says, that a number of patients have been wrongly diagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state. However, many people, I suspect, would find the quality of life of those "recovering" patients to be unacceptable and, if they were in a similar position, would wish life-prolonging treatment, including feeding by naso-gastric tube, withdrawn and to be allowed to die with dignity.

The only way such patients can communicate their wish to a doctor is by way of an advance directive ("living will").

Yours faithfully,
JOHN OLIVER,
General Secretary,
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W3,
December 10.

Smoking costs

From Mr Clive Turner

Sir, Mrs Jane Hodges (letter, December 19) tells us that, among others, smokers should pay for what she considers are self-inflicted health problems.

There are no official government figures available, but the Health Education Authority, on a basis unknown to us, currently estimates the annual cost to the NHS of alleged smoking-related diseases at £25 million. Since smokers are paying more than 28 times this sum in tobacco tax each year, surely nobody can say that they are not paying their way.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE TURNER
(Executive Director, Industry Affairs),
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association,
55 Tufton Street, Westminster, SW1,
December 19.

Life aboard a modern prison hulk

From Mr Graham Wilmer

Sir, I was interested to read Richard Ford's report (December 13) on the possible use by the Home Office of the floating accommodation unit *Resolution* to ease the accommodation shortage in the Prison Service.

Life on the original prison "hulks" was hellish, but life on the *Resolution* will be very different. When I interviewed remand prisoners housed on the unit in New York in 1990, they described life on the hulk as "more like being on the love boat than in prison".

The Department of Correction (DoC) had hired *Resolution* and another similar unit, *Venture*, to help solve an emergency overcrowding problem they faced between 1987 and 1989.

Such was the quality of life on both units that the DoC decided they would use the tranquil environment aboard *Resolution*, the larger and more spacious of the two, to establish a special drug-rehabilitation programme for both remand and convicted prisoners. This was a considerable success, according to the DoC's Director of Substance Abuse Intervention at the time.

Resolution offers a fast, secure, cost-effective solution to the problem of prison overcrowding, and the Home Office are well aware of the benefits. That, I suspect, is why they amended the Criminal Justice Act recently to allow for the use of floating detention facilities previously outlawed.

The irony in this story is that the former owners of *Resolution* and *Venture*, the Liverpool-based Bibby Line, tried unsuccessfully for years to get the Home Office to take one of the units, following their success in pioneering their use in the US.

Eventually, in 1992, the New York DoC, having solved their own overcrowding problems by building their own high-tech, purpose-built unit, sold the two units (which they had bought from Bibby some five years earlier) to an American scrap merchant. He, it would appear, is about to sell it back to the UK — no doubt for a fat fee. So much for buying British.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM WILMER
(freelance writer),
Laburnum Farmhouse,
9 Mill Lane, Ness, South Wirral,
December 13.

Care for mentally ill held in jail

From Mr Roger Woods

Sir, The concern expressed recently about the number of remand and other prisoners who are mentally ill (report, October 25) engages the attention of those of us who are concerned with the saving of our architectural heritage.

In recent years we have seen a huge and costly building programme of new prisons and a large rise in the prison population. This has been accompanied by the closure of hundreds of former institutions which were set up, often by charitable organisations, for the humane care of the mentally ill.

These mostly fine and often listed buildings are now empty, but many are of national architectural interest; they present great problems in finding

suitable new uses, mainly because they are in rural situations where they once provided farming work and fresh air for the patients.

As an architect, I am aware that these former old asylums and hospitals may have housed patients who should not have been confined, but they at least provided a safe haven for many who now find themselves on the streets or in prison.

Have we seen the closure of one type of institution, only to be followed by the expansion of an even more harsh system of containing those who are ill and in need of treatment within caring communities?

Yours etc,
ROGER WOODS,
74 Bootham, York,
December 13.

Preserving archives

From Dr Peter T. Marsh

Sir, The disturbing feature about the purchase of the Churchill papers is not their valuation (Mr Roy Davids's letter, December 14) but that they were put up for sale in the first place. Henceforth those who inherit comparably great collections of papers like those of Mr Gladstone or the Chamberlain collection, which I am editing, must question the previously honoured wisdom of bequeathing them to public institutions.

The entire Chamberlain collection, which includes the papers of Joseph and Austen as well as Neville Chamberlain and of their remarkable wifely, was given freely by their descendants to the University of Birmingham.

Yours faithfully,
PETER T. MARSH
(Leverhulme visiting fellow),
The University of Birmingham,
School of History,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT,
December 16.

From Lady Spender

Sir, Manuscript collections (letters, December 7, 11, 14) in American university and public libraries are admirably kept by distinguished and helpful custodians to whom I have reason to feel obliged. But which of our young students and our serious authors can afford to spend weeks in Texas, New York or Indiana?

As the literary executor of Stephen Spender, without the means to buy his manuscripts at auction and desiring the accessibility to students of the 1939 manuscript volume of his poems, I was keen that the British Library should acquire it, despite there being insufficient funds at the time. Happily this became possible through the co-operation of Sally Brown, its curator

of modern manuscripts, and the Po Shing Woo Foundation, towards which we all feel particular gratitude.

This small example suggests that for more substantial literary archives, perhaps beyond the scope of individual donors and smaller foundations, the Heritage Department would, as Mr Roy Davids suggested in his letter, do well to reconsider the terms governing funding, especially for manuscripts of those living authors who cannot afford to donate and are at present obliged to sell abroad.

Yours sincerely,
NATASHA SPENDER,
15 Loudoun Road, NW8,
December 17.

From the Director of the National Cataloguing Unit for the Archives of Contemporary Scientists

Sir, Although the auction sale of the Brunel papers is a salutary lesson, it should not be assumed that the archives of more recent engineers are suffering the same fate.

One answer to the problem of recent archives is provided by this unit, which since 1973 has been working to ensure that the papers of some of Britain's leading contemporary engineers and scientists are not disposed of piecemeal but are placed in an appropriate repository where they can be made available for future scholarship.

To date the papers of some 180 scientists and engineers have been catalogued and deposited by the unit in more than 40 archive repositories throughout the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HARPER,
Director,
National Cataloguing Unit for the Archives of Contemporary Scientists,
University of Bath,
The Library,
Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY,
December 12.

Spending priorities

From Professor David Watmough

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Why we're all losers in the battle of the euro", December 16) explains that Germans "know from experience that a strong currency is a better basis for economic development than a weak one" and have noted how the opposite policy worked for Britain.

Although not having precise figures for relative defence expenditure between the UK and Germany, it is reasonable to assume that the allocation of large UK budget resources to projects like Polaris and Trident, rather than to industrial production and research and development, account for much of Britain's poor economic performance compared to that of Germany.

It is not the strength of the currency *per se* which is of primary importance but the wisdom or otherwise of policy decisions which determine it. British politicians appear to have had a misconceived image of this country's power and importance and have over-spent.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WATMOUGH,
Morefield Cottage,
Ullapool, Ross-shire,
December 16.

Disclosing evidence

From the Director of Public Prosecutions

Sir, I am surprised that Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith, QC (letter, December 20), appears to be unaware of the enactment of the Criminal Procedure and Investigation Act 1996, sections of which are already in operation. The disclosure proposals to which he refers are not a "unilateral and fundamental change of policy" initiated by the Crown Prosecution Service as he suggests, but now part of the law, to be implemented shortly.

The CPS, in conjunction with the police, are jointly organising a major training exercise so that together we implement the new disclosure provisions fairly and effectively.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MILLS,
Director of Public Prosecutions,
Crown Prosecution Service,
50 Ludgate Hill, EC4,
December 20.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters that are intended for publication to be faxed to 0171-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

Royal Academy's need for reform

From Mr Hugh Malveen

Sir, Notwithstanding the excellent suggestion by Mrs Diana King (letter, December 13) by which Friends of the Royal Academy could, through donations, put right at a stroke the present financial crisis, this institution is patently in need of effective long-term reform. In any administrative situation, payments due to a pension scheme and simply "not made" (sic) must be viewed very seriously.

Already it seems that the Academy is tying itself in knots by announcing that it will not sell any works of art: nor will staff cuts be considered (report, December 13). Hardly sensible strategy when a business plan, presumably, is in preparation and all options should remain open for consideration.

At the other end of the spectrum, to provide a café within the Sackler Wing extension is but to tinker while greater problems abound; and may spoil for ever that confidently handled space which forms part of an outstanding example of contemporary architecture, as it were on permanent exhibition within the Academy premises.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH McLVEEN,
Bowback, Honington,
Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire,
December 13.

From Mr C. R. Devereux

Sir, I read with sorrow and concern of the Royal Academy's financial difficulties, but I do not believe that asking the Friends to resolve the problem is a valid solution. I am a history of art student at the University of East Anglia as well as a Friend, and regard RA exhibitions as a valuable aid in my studies; but I am sure there are many Friends who, like me, cannot afford to support the Academy further.

If the RA wishes to retain its autonomous standing, it cannot reasonably seek government funding, and assistance from this source would be perhaps unwise, stretching the Arts budget even further. Perhaps artists selling works in the Summer Exhibition would agree to a greater percentage of the price going to the Academy? Or why not seize the initiative and sell the *Michelangelo Tondo*?

The purpose of the RA is not to collect art, but to encourage its development, and what percentage of the visitors to the galleries actually see the *Tondo* in its obscure location?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DEVEREUX,
2 Dover Street, Norwich, Norfolk,
December 13.

Coren and Amis

From Mr Mark Anderson

Sir, Alan Coren's desire to write a best-selling publishing contract ("Can I take out a contract on Martin Amis?", December 18) is commendable. He will, of course, need legal advice on the wording of the contract.

As the author of a legal textbook on intellectual property agreements, I am well qualified to advise him, and would be willing to share his royalties with him, in lieu of my normal fee.

Yours generously,
MARK ANDERSON,
Anderson & Company (solicitors),
36 The Vineyard, Richmond, Surrey,
December 19.

Cleric's move

From the Reverend John Hawthorne

Sir, The Reverend Eric Shegog (report, December 19), commenting that it was understandable that many would see his appointment as head of communications for the Diocese of London as a downwards step, asked: "But where do you go after being head of religious programming for the IBA and head of communications for the Church of England?"

To a parish, perhaps?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAWTHORNE,
The Vicarage, The Green,
Terbury, Gloucestershire,
December 19.

Fully furnished

From Mr Asif Khan

Sir, I welcome Edward Thomas's suggestion (letter, December 18) that people calling themselves chairs and joint chairs should form a settee and become a suite of furniture.

I would wholeheartedly support Mr Thomas if he were now to table a formal motion to this effect. Whether he will have a leg to stand on, I don't know.

Yours sincerely,
ASIF KHAN,
282a Whitton Avenue East,
Greenford, Middlesex,
December 18.

From Mr Rashaad Thirlway

Sir, Hereabouts we have enough local authority committee "Chairs" to furnish a complete auditorium. There can be no guarantee, however, that if so assembled they would listen to reason.

Yours faithfully,
RASHAAD THIRLWAY,
30 Finchfield Hill,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
December 18.

NEWS

Car bomb ends loyalist ceasefire

The loyalist ceasefire appeared to be in ruins after a notorious republican was injured by a booby-trap car bomb in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast.

Millennium project in funding danger

Tory and Labour leaders were warned that they have only weeks to settle a political battle that threatens to scupper plans for the Millennium Exhibition.

Peruvian appeal

Thousands of Peruvians demonstrated in support of a compromise between President Fujimori and the rebels holding 360 hostages in the Japanese Ambassador's residence.

Bishop accused

Roderick Wright, former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, will never be allowed to return to a Roman Catholic Church post in Scotland, even if he repents.

Exam plea

State and independent school head teachers have joined forces to demand a postponement of changes to A and AS-level examinations, which ministers hope to implement before the general election.

Missile dangers

Significant numbers of a Royal Navy's air-to-air missile have been withdrawn because of dangerous cracks that could make them explode on firing.

Mystery Matilda

Behind the heroine of Matilda, the film based on a Roald Dahl story likely to rate with young audiences, lies a Matilda nothing like her screen persona.

Church struggle

A new vicar has been appointed to take charge of Selby Abbey where a power struggle has led to the resignation of three vicars in six years.

End of the line for Christmas fun

There were all the ingredients of a festive staff party, including the feeling of the floor swaying. Aboard the 18.31 London to Brighton train, commuters were having a celebration on the last working Friday before Christmas.

Christmas cost

The cost of Christmas may seem bigger each year but Britain's oldest seasonal price index shows it has risen little more than the rate of inflation.

Heart mechanics

Michael Tynan, professor of pediatric cardiology, and Dr Shakeel Qureshi, a consultant, are readying themselves for a day of "mechanics" the repair of a human heart without the use of the surgeon's knife.

Shadow government

China's Selection Committee chose the 60 members of Hong Kong's provisional legislature who are to replace the present elected Legislative Council on July 1.

Yeltsin comes home

For the first time in nearly five months, President Yeltsin's motorcade will sweep through Moscow and into the Kremlin, as the Russian leader begins his second term in office.

Mastroianni farewell

Rome bade a tearful farewell to Marcello Mastroianni, the actor who personified the quintessential Latin lover of the 1960s dolce vita era.

Gingrich fights on

Newt Gingrich was fighting to save his job as Speaker after his stunning confession that he had broken ethics rules.



Former Beirut hostages, Terry Waite and John McCarthy, watch as Diane Wells lights a candle during a vigil at a parish church in Blackburn, Lancashire, for her son Paul who is being held hostage by separatists in Kashmir

BUSINESS

Christmas cheer: The amount of merger and takeover work around looks set to make 1996 a bumper year for brokers, bankers and the like, with fees expected to exceed £1 billion.

Christmas gloom: Figures from the TUC and the Labour Party suggest long-term unemployment remains hard to eradicate, while the number of children brought up in jobless homes is rising.

Electric shock: One of the most extraordinary takeover bids in recent history is coming to a close, with the fate of Northern Electric still uncertain.

Hard labour: More than 150 years after Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol, working hours are lengthening, experts say.

FEATURES

Measured up: £700 is a lot of dosh to pay for a suit. But if you're the sort of person who is happy to pay that much, then it's a bargain.

Jane Shilling: "Goose is ordered, the kitchen is stuffed with sprouts and clementines, brazil nuts and shallots. So why do I still feel so miserable? Because I haven't got anything to wear."

Revolutionary find: Java skulls suggest that Homo erectus, an ancestor of modern man, existed just 27,000 years ago.

Nigel Hawkes: The worm-like objects found in Martian meteorites and hailed as evidence of life on Mars are not animal but mineral, a new examination says.

CRICKET

Melvyn Bragg: If Jimmy McGovern's play about the Hillsborough disaster proved one thing, it was that television can speak to — and shake — the nation.

Dance feast: From testosterone tap to gender-bending ballet, it is a bumper Christmas for dance on the small screen.

Fine performance: Neil Bartlett's new adaptation of A Christmas Carol has one thing going for it above all else: Richard Briers' wonderful portrayal of the old skinflint Scrooge.

High notes: Berlioz's choral epic, L'Enfance du Christ, is superbly performed in Manchester by the chorus and orchestra of the Royal Northern College of Music.

FOOTBALL

Cricket: England came within one run of victory in the first Test match against Zimbabwe. It was the first time that the scores were level in a drawn match.

Premiership: Wimbledon's 19-match unbeaten run was ended when they were humbled 5-0 by Aston Villa.

Rugby union: The sending off of Brian Moore, the former England hooker, almost certainly cost Richmond the chance of victory in their Pilkington Cup tie.

Sailing: James Capstick, a member of the crew of Ocean Rover, a yacht competing in the BT Global Challenge race, gives an account of preparing for Christmas.

Rugby union: Four clubs will now be relegated from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship after a surprise mid-season change of plan.

Equestrianism: Robert Smith and Nick Skelton had contrasting fortunes in the Olympia show jumping championships.

Japan's Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, who has promised to sweep away barriers to competition throughout the Japanese economy, has yet to show he can do so without the foreign pressure that Japan loves to hate.



IN THE TIMES

VISUAL ART

Why Bill Viola's video installation for Durham Cathedral was one of the highlights of 1996

LAW

How two deals have decided the reparations for the Gulf War

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,358

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Aberlour advertisement featuring a bottle of whisky and text: 'The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,357 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.'

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table listing road and weather conditions for various UK regions including UK Weather, All regions, and specific areas like London, Midlands, etc.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather forecasts by fax for various locations across the UK.

World City Weather

Table listing weather forecasts for various world cities.

AA Car reports by fax

Table listing car reports by fax for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table listing hours of darkness for various locations.

General: cold and windy day

England and Wales should be mainly dry with bright spells. The far South West may be cloudier with sleet. Windy showers in northeast England.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR (Aberdeen Forecast) for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

Weather conditions

Weather map of the UK showing pressure systems, wind directions, and weather symbols.

Changes to chart below from noon

high G will drift southeast with central pressure declining. Lows B, C and D will drift southeast. C will fill and D will deepen

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

AFOR

Table listing AFOR for various locations.

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

THE UNHAPPY HOOKER

Moore not the merrier for a Pilkington Cup exit. Reports PAGES 26, 27

1996 CROWNING GLORY

Michael Henderson opens a series on the best days of this great sporting year PAGE 28

COLD COMFORTS

The harsh realities of Christmas at sea PAGE 21

CAVALRY CHARGE

Saddle up with the Pony Club Sport for All PAGE 30

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 23 1996

ZIMBABWE'S NEGATIVE BOWLING EARNS DRAMATIC DRAW IN TEST



Knight, at full stretch, makes an unavailing attempt to reach a ball wide of his off stump as the Test in Bulawayo moves towards its thrilling finish. Photograph: Clive Mason / Allsport

England held by wide boys

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (final day of five): Zimbabwe draw with England.

IT WAS one of cricket's best of days and worst of days. The country charm of Queen's Club, Bulawayo yesterday witnessed drama — and the negation of drama — as England went in frenzied pursuit of 205 runs in 37 overs to win this first Test match and Zimbabwe tried to stop them, not by taking wickets but by denying them the chance to score those runs.

"In a one-day game, this would not have been permitted. The paradox is that the purest form of cricket does not yet condemn such abuses."

Alan Lee, page 20

The battle raged right until the end. Rarely does a match scheduled to last 30 hours — though this game was in fact cut by two hours through rain — come down to the last intended ball, but that is what happened here. Test cricket cannot have seen many days like it.

In the end denial won the day by the narrowest possible margin when Nick Knight, who battled away throughout England's innings — desperately trying to marry the conventional to the unconventional, for 96 from 118 balls — failed to hit the last intended ball from Streak — one of his straighter ones — for three.

By driving it to Carlisle on the cover boundary, Knight

was easily able to gather two runs with Gough, his partner, but the third was never on and Knight was run out by a country mile. "I hit it out of the middle of the bat," Knight said "but it didn't seem to go." It seemed to disappear into the grass. The scores thus finished level — the third time in 1,345 Test matches that this has happened.

As the hot afternoon wore on the temperature within everyone's head rose, but never boiled over. There was scope for inflammatory gestures but none was forthcoming, perhaps because this was Bulawayo rather than Bombay, Brisbane or Bridgetown. But rarely can 2,500 people have made more noise in a cricket ground, farmers and hunters making themselves heard just as capably as the barny army.

But the tension showed. One of the more passionate people on the ground, David Lloyd the England coach, left his players to pace the boundary edge while one of the least loquacious, Michael Atherton, the England captain, sat glued to the television monitor in the team tent. But after the game, within the space of a few minutes, Lloyd referred to Streak as one of the world's best opening bowlers and of being incapable of hitting a garage door. It was that sort of occasion.

Zimbabwe's tactics will attract widespread criticism in England (though not, publicly at least, by the England team here) but it is only right to give due credit to all the positive cricket that was played and the fact that, in the end, England were cheated more by time rather than by Zimbabwe.

It was indeed the home side that began the day with such

enterprise, despite resuming on 107 for five, a lead of only 77. Robust half-centuries from Waller (on his debut) and Whitall wided England, who laboured three hours 20 minutes to claim the remaining five wickets, with at least one chance — Knight, close in, dropped Paul Strang early in his innings — going begging.

England then responded in kind, never questioning that the stiff challenge that faced them in the fourth innings was one they should try to meet. Knight signalled their intentions by executing an extraordinary smash-pull in the first over against Streak. Although

Atherton, looking to cut everything, soon dragged the ball from Olunga into his stumps. Stewart came out with all guns blazing — as befits a man who has not failed in a Test innings for six matches.

Campbell soon settled on his two slow bowlers, Paul Strang and Grant Flower, who is no more than a part-time practitioner of left arm, as the best means of stifling the scoring, essentially through the spoiling tactic of attacking the batsman's legs.

Even so, England reached the halfway point of their 37 overs ahead of the game, at 106 for one, and, with ten

overs remaining, the score was 146 for one. Only 59 more were needed and the fields had long since betrayed Zimbabwe's lack of interest in attack, though that ought to have been their best hope of salvation. Grim defence was the order of the day.

Nevertheless Knight and Stewart were of necessity running grave risks and eventually Stewart, having struck 73 from 75 balls, miscued an attempt to swot Strang to leg again and skyed a catch to Campbell.

Later in the over, Hussain made room to convert drive and chipped into the hands of Carlisle. England had lost momentum, 49 were wanted from seven overs, they were now behind the game and, as Lloyd said, "we knew what was coming".

After Strang's final over had gone for 11, what was coming came in the form of the seamers. Streak and Whitall, playing cat and mouse with the batsmen, firing one ball down the leg side, another down the off. Streak was not slow in exercising his liberal right to throw in bouncers. Knight resorted to guessing as to where the next ball might be directed.

It was not — realistically could not — be enough. By the time the last two overs remained to be bowled, Crawley and Thorpe had perished and 21 runs were still required. Of the last 12 find-me-if-you-can balls two were not scored from, four produced singles, five twos and one a six clipped off his pads over the square-leg boundary.

Coming from the third ball of the final over that shot briefly rekindled England's hopes and the next ball played a large part in extinguishing them, Streak bowling so far

outside off stump that Knight's nearly fell over trying to reach it.

Umpire Robinson, stretching even the generous interpretation of the "wide" rule used in Test cricket, judged it legitimate.

Lloyd, though, said: "We hammered them in this match, and they know it. It finished up with nine fielders on the boundary edge — they were murdered. They were not in this game, and with one more ball we would have won it. The tactics they employed, however, were within the laws of the game."

Campbell said that he be-

TV Action Replay 20
Bulawayo scoreboard ... 20
West Indies lifted 21

lieved Lloyd's comments were "adrenalin driven". He said: "If he wants to believe they murdered us then fine, but as far as I was concerned it was a good game of cricket. Sure, we used negative tactics in the final session, but you don't just throw a Test match away."

Knight tacitly supported him by saying that England would have done the same thing had the roles been reversed. But it was ironic that while Zimbabwe's actions were beyond sensure, England had deservedly been upbraided only the previous day by the match referee, Hanuman Singh, for running towards the umpire "in a chorus of appeal".

There were times yesterday, when the Zimbabwe tail was frustrating them, that they came perilously close to a repeat and thus a financial penalty. In the final analysis, it would have been an injustice.

TEST FINISHES IN TEST CRICKET

- England (Brisbane, 1900-01)
- England (Melbourne, 1908-09)
- England (Brisbane, 1930-31)
- England (Brisbane, 1938-39)
- England (Brisbane, 1946-47)
- England (Brisbane, 1954-55)
- England (Brisbane, 1962-63)
- England (Brisbane, 1970-71)
- England (Brisbane, 1978-79)
- England (Brisbane, 1986-87)
- England (Brisbane, 1994-95)

Bargain New Year Breaks in London

GREAT HOTELS

FROM ONLY
£28
PER PERSON PER NIGHT

INCLUDING FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST

- 28 **Royal Scot** 0171 278 2434
Near King's Cross & Euston AA/RAC***
- 39 **Charing Cross** 0171 839 7282
By Trafalgar Square in the heart of the West End
- 40 **Kensington Palace** 0171 937 8121
Minutes from Ken. High St. & Knightsbridge AA/RAC***
- 42 **The Grosvenor** 0171 834 9494
Victoria & Buckingham Palace AA****
- 44 **Mount Royal** 0171 629 8040
Overlooking Oxford Street AA/RAC***
- 44 **Royal Horseguards** 0171 839 3400
Close to Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and the Houses of Parliament AA/RAC***

CHILDREN WELCOME!

Sharing 4 rooms with 2 adults; Under 6; Stay & eat breakfast free 6-15; Stay free, £5 each per breakfast

PRICES VALID 26 JANUARY - 27 FEBRUARY 1997
BOOK BY 15 JANUARY 1997

Ask your Travel Agent to book through Highlife on 0800 700 400 (N. Ireland 01232 312000) or call the hotel of your choice.

Please quote reference GATT 23 12
Prices per person per night based on 2 people sharing a double or twin room with private bathroom. No single occupancy. Bookings subject to availability. All details correct at time of going to press.

FOOTBALL: WIMBLEDON ARE LEFT IN TATTERS AS THEIR UNBEATEN RUN IS BROUGHT TO AN UNCEREMONIOUS END

Milosevic trump card in Villa's nap hand

Aston Villa 5
Wimbledon 0

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE fascination with football is its eternal ability to confound. Wimbledon travelled to the Midlands yesterday, cocky in their self-belief, riding a sequence of 19 league and cup games without defeat, secure in the estimation of Joe Kinnear, their manager and team builder, that they possess £50 million-worth of talent in one line-up. Aston Villa became the myth busters.

Full results and league tables . Page 24

away in anticipation of a dull match with Villa scarcely able to conjure up a goal a game and Wimbledon conceding only seven in eight away matches in the FA Carling Premiership.

On top of that, the shops were open this Sunday before Christmas... and who could blame Villa supporters if they preferred to see Zola caress the ball here for Chelsea on Boxing Day than to see Vinnie Jones do what he does?

Little did anyone suspect that we were to witness a Villa record of five successive Premiership wins. The chill factor, it was -7C in the wind, seemed to seep into the players' minds; both teams were playing miserly football, with Wimbledon contriving to squeeze the lifeblood out of the occasion by defending with two solid walls of four defenders in front of Sullivan.



Milosevic strides into the penalty area and flicks the ball past Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, to score Aston Villa's second goal in their 5-0 victory yesterday

shirts surrounding him. Thus, one volley over the bar from Leonhardsen, one shot curled wide by Draper, and several awesomely long throw-ins from Jones was all that warranted of the bitter cold.

Premiership this season. Four minutes later Milosevic doubled the score. Again Wimbledon co-operated, again a defender, Perry, provided the through ball, mis-directing his header.

Nelson, though left ruefully on the turf after running into Jones, began a sweeping five-man move that led to the third goal. From Nelson's pass Wright, Yorke and Staunton combined and, though Sullivan made a relex stop from Milosevic, Taylor was bestride him to head the ball over the line.

Milosevic, hearing his name announced over the tannoy as man of the match, scored a fourth goal. He almost shrugged Townsend, his own captain, out of the way to claim the ball, powered forward and shot. The ball was deflected in off the foot of Blackwell, and though the committee will sooner or later chalk this one up as an own goal, who had the heart yesterday to deprive Milosevic?

scoring in the 86th minute. Once again Milosevic prompted the move. His cheeky through ball was anticipated by Taylor, and then Curdie, the substitute for Draper, accepted a pass, chipped the ball into the six-yard box, and Yorke poached the goal.

more incisive edge. The next few weeks, during which there are guaranteed full houses at Villa Park, will tell whether the home team, now in fourth place, have real pedigree. They face Chelsea at home, travel to Arsenal and Manchester United, play host to Newcastle United and are then away to Liverpool. After those, Wimbledon and the rout before Christmas will be long forgotten.

ASTON VILLA (5-0): M Brannan — U Egozi, S Staunton (sub: C Tiller, Zorari), R Schmeichel — F Nelson, J Taylor, M Draper (sub: S Curdie, R A Townsend, A Wright) — D Yorke, Z Milosevic.

WIMBLEDON (0-4): N Sullivan — K Cunningham (sub: D Helder), S Blackwell (sub: B McAlister, GJ A Krulic) — N Andley, R Eadie, V Jones, O Lushardsen — M Gayle, E Blocke. Referee: S Dunn.

Brighton fans bid to extend protest

BRIGHTON supporters are hoping to receive backing from all league clubs for a protest at the home match against Hartlepool United on February 8. In a further move to demonstrate against the way that Brighton, the bottom club in the Nationwide League, is being run, followers are inviting groups of 20 football supporters from all clubs to join them in a united show of support.

It is hoped that they will be able to meet before the game in Hove Park, near the Goldstone Ground, Brighton's home for 95 years, which they must leave at the end of the season.

Liz Costa, the vice-chairman of the Brighton supporters' club, said: "We hope to make this into a festival of football. As well as being a football occasion, it adds weight to our campaign to rid the club of its present directors."

"The chairman, Bill Archer, has lost every ounce of trust from Brighton fans. He has contradicted everything he has said. Costa said that, if at least 800 supporters from other clubs responded, it would be significant, and this particular day had been chosen as there were no FA Carling Premiership matches.

United title charge under way with a flourish

Manchester United 5
Sunderland 0

BY PETER BALL

THROUGHOUT the autumn Alex Ferguson's stated plan had been for his side to keep ticking away in the FA Carling Premiership while the European Cup Champions League commanded their attention.

Unconvincing draws away to West Ham United and Sheffield Wednesday suggested that such hubris might be punished, with turning back to full power domestically not so easy.

Sunderland, the gritty, determined, high morale Sunderland who drew at Anfield and destroyed Chelsea, were simply outclassed as United rediscovered their joy, none more than Cantona, who capped the afternoon with one of the greatest goals scored at Old Trafford.

"I don't normally talk about the opposition," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said afterwards, "but I was really, really impressed. We've had a lesson today."

Yet for half an hour United were as bad as they had been at Upton Park, with no fluency, and looking totally confused by their defensive plan, with the Nevilles as wing backs and Irwin as one of three central defenders. In the uncertainty with Brian Kidd standing on the touchline trying to sort things out, nobody was picking up the runs of Rae and Russell saw one shot bend round the post and got in the way of another from Rae.

"For 35 minutes I was thinking 'if we can get a goal here, we might have a chance,'" Reid said. "Then we were hit by a great attacking display."

The formation was amended to the familiar back four, with Irwin at right back and Gary Neville picking up Rae in front of May and Fallister. After the interval, with Fallister worryingly suffering a recurrence of his back problem, Neville went back

to centre half to perform with the quiet excellence that is his trademark. He could be the best second centre half at Old Trafford since Martin Buchan, who he so much resembles.

Whether the change in formation



Cantona: stunning goal

back to the tried and tested was the key to the sudden transformation is questionable, but it certainly helped.

Until then Giggs had looked the only United player on song, and he began the dramatic change as he beat Hall and fired over a low centre. Scholes met it with a scorching shot that Perez could only parry. Solskjaer reacted quickest and, with the opening goal, the roof fell in on Sunderland.

Soon Cantona claimed his first Premiership goal since his brace against Nottingham Forest in September, from the penalty spot. Two minutes after the interval Solskjaer showed more determination than Kubicki as he collected Schmeichel's long throw and ran on to claim his second.

Before the hour Butt had made it four, and the last half hour was like a friendly as both managers, mindful of the demands of the Christmas programme, threw on their substitutes. "At 3-0 it's history, game over," Reid explained.

Cantona made it memorable 12 minutes from time. Just inside the Sunderland half, with no apparent escape as terriers such as Ball and Ord snapped at his heels, finding a team-mate for a pass looked like a difficult enough ambition.

Instead, a shimmy, some sleight of foot and Cantona had broken free, leaving two terriers following the wrong scent, had found McClair and was running on strongly. McClair's perfectly weighted return pass sent Cantona past Melville to chip the ball over Perez and in off the post.

"I had the perfect view of that from where I was sitting, and I was trying to blow it over the bar," Reid said. "If I wasn't the opposition manager, I might say that goal was worth paying to see."

MANCHESTER UNITED (3-5-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, D Hoyle, G Pallister (sub: S McClair, 45min) — G Neville, N Butt, P Scholes, R Giggs (sub: S Thornley, 63), P Neville — E Cantona, U Solskjaer (sub: K Pottoroy, 53).

Zola: marvellous goal

it up and lay it off was shown to perfection. It reminded you how badly Manchester United have missed him since they let him go. He scored twice, after six and 36 minutes, and could, like Zola, have had more.

From Zola's subtle flick, Hughes pivoted and hit a low shot that crept in between Mikosko and the left-hand post. His second was headed in from a long cross from the right by Petrescu; but where was Rieper, where was Bilic? The two tall centre halves were surely obliged to head such balls away.

Very briefly, West Ham looked as if they might come back into the game, when Portinho, their little Portuguese player, beat Grodas with a crisp, left-footed shot from the edge of the box to make it 2-1. By and large, though, West Ham simply were not at the races.

Di Matteo, the Italy international, returned to Chelsea's midfield after some unhappy weeks with club and country and began to look his old, creative self. The question is whether Chelsea, brushed aside by Leeds United and Sunderland, can play this kind of football away from Stamford Bridge, against teams less malleable than West Ham?

"At the start of the season, we were very comfortable away from home — I hope that we can get that back," Gullit, who played at centre back, said optimistically. Zola was optimistic, too. "I think not only the club Chelsea. I think it's the problem with other teams, because in England it's very, very hard when you go to play outside. You find teams very strong, very, very physical, very aggressive. But I think if you are organised you can win."

OR if you have Zola. CHELSEA (3-5-2): F Grodas — R Gullit, S Corchia, M Odion — D Petrescu, C Samba, R Di Matteo, E Newton, N Clement (sub: A Inyart, 85min) — G Zola, M Hughes.

Pearce v mind ga to put 10 on their t

Dublin shows w

Graham back i

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



Chelsea vs West Ham table with scores and statistics.

Nottingham Forest vs Arsenal table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Predicting form over the Christmas/New Year period...

Carling Premiership table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Leicester City vs Coventry table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Soiskjaer: Two goals on Saturday

Nationwide Football League table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Nationwide Football League

First Division table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Bell's Football League

First Division table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Bell's Football League

Second Division table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Bell's Football League

Third Division table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Bell's Football League

Fourth Division table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Bell's Football League

Fifth Division table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Bell's Football League

Sixth Division table with columns for Home, Away, Goal difference.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

Sheff Wed vs Preston table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

United States vs Costa Rica table with scores and statistics.

Gascoig piles of misery for Jefferie



Soiskjaer: Two goals on Saturday

ROY EVANS, the Liverpool manager, is confident that Robbie Fowler will have recovered from an ankle injury in time to play against Newcastle United tonight.

Goalscorers table with columns for Player, Goals, Clubs.



Mario Jardel, left, of Porto, tackles Paulo Madeira, of Belenenses, during their Portuguese League match which Porto won 2-0. Photograph: Luisa Ferreira

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Large table listing various non-league and national leagues with scores and statistics.

Table listing various national leagues with scores and statistics.

Goalscorers table with columns for Player, Goals, Clubs.

Goalscorers table with columns for Player, Goals, Clubs.

Goalscorers table with columns for Player, Goals, Clubs.

Goalscorers table with columns for Player, Goals, Clubs.

Goalscorers table with columns for Player, Goals, Clubs.

Forecast: Halfway to Christmas - average scores expected - average scores expected.

Goalscorers table with columns for Player, Goals, Clubs.

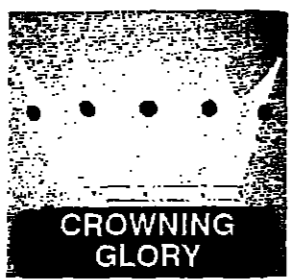
The golden moments of the sporting year are recalled in a new series by Times writers

Tendulkar opens the door to a whole new world

When the cricket World Cup was in need of resuscitation, the change was stunning. Michael Henderson saw it all

The best day of the year began pavilioned in splendour and girded with quaise. In front of a crowd of 10,000 Indians, who were there to see Sachin Tendulkar, the local champion, and their team to victory. Australia brought the cricket World Cup to life in magnificent style in Bombay. There are not many games of one-day cricket that remain in the memory, but the day-fighter on February 27 was the best. It would be fair to say that it was an outstanding match that took place in a limited-overs context, for, in terms of intensity and skill, it came as close to matching the best cricket as a one-day game ever will. Australia won with 16 runs, and deserved to, by the quality of Tendulkar's innings, and the occasion itself, ensured that there was far more to the day than winning and losing. The sense of expectation was palpable. All India knew that the World Cup was returning to their keeping. Their team had just beaten West Indies, with Tendulkar playing the bowling, and Australia, who refused to go to Sri Lanka because they feared for their security, had yet to play a meaningful competitive match. To be frank, the first five weeks of the World Cup amounted to a phoney war, and could not have engaged the interest of many people beyond the sub-continent.

Bombay changed all that. Just walking to the ground at lunchtime, through the crowds, was a special thrill. It was no surprise that Mark Nicholas, of *The Daily Telegraph*, and I lost our sense of geography and ended up at the wrong entrance, having to cross a railway line to reach the Wankhede Stadium. At that point an extremely efficient army officer, *lathi* in



CROWNING GLORY

hand, confiscated the (English) newspapers I had brought, insisting that they represented a fire hazard that could not be tolerated. When Nicholas stepped in with an equally brisk command, that English journalists would brook no restriction of their duties by a mere underling, he submitted. That incident bore the stamp of the World Cup. Although it was an interna-



Mark Waugh lights the fuse of a compelling contest

tional competition, it was run less capably than a parish bazaar — and it was to get worse. A reporter from *The Sunday Telegraph*, who had arrived in Bombay that morning without accreditation, was able to breeze through the soldiers defending the ground from ticketless invaders. Simon Mann, of the BBC, on the other hand, had to fight his way in and witnessed those soldiers bringing down their *lathis* on the booties of a group of bona fide ticket-holders.

After that it was plain sailing. Australia won the toss and Mark Waugh became the first man to make two successive centuries in the World Cup, sharing a century opening stand with Mark Taylor, his captain, and going on to make a brilliant 126 from 135 balls. When he was run out Australia were 232 for four, but the remaining six wickets went down for 26 runs, the last four to successive balls. Five batsmen were run out, and a total of 258 appeared to be within India's reach.

It took Australia fewer than six overs to reshape the game, as Damien Fleming removed the India openers while, at the other end, McGrath conceded only four runs in his first four overs. It was then that Tendulkar decided to counter-attack in the most thrilling way, and for the next hour the cricket was (a cliché, but true) breath-taking.

First he took three boundaries off McGrath, then he hit 15 from the bowler's next over, including a six smashed over mid-wicket from a ball only fractionally short of a length. Taylor decided that it was time to summon Shane Warne, his own match-winner, and Tendulkar was not going to shirk the challenge. There followed a passage of great cricket that brought glory to both players. Tendulkar wound himself up to thrash Warne's first ball to the boundary, but might have perished either to the third ball, which Stuart Law got a hand to at mid-off, or the fifth, which flew past Taylor's ear at slip. In all, the over cost



Tendulkar, whose battle with Warne was the centrepiece of the remarkable drama that unfolded in Bombay, unleashes another drive

Warne ten runs as Tendulkar raced to an extraordinary fifty from 41 balls.

Even when Fleming forced Azharuddin to play on, Tendulkar did not draw breath. He had made 90 superb runs from 83 balls when he was drawn to meet an off spinner from Mark Waugh that was called wide. Waugh did not repine: Ian Healy whipped off the balls for his 200th dismissal in one-day internationals and a glo-

rious innings was over. The crowd rose to his aid and by now, with the floodlights on and the whole city, it seemed, vibrating, a wonderful day had become unforgettable.

India did not give up the game. Manjrekar made a fine half-century and Mongia batted valiantly, but the return of Fleming and the introduction of Steve Waugh proved vital. Fleming ended with five for 36, figures that would normally give a bowler the man-

of-the-match award in a game of 500 runs. On this day of days, though, it was Mark Waugh who took the palm.

What of Warne? After that expensive first over, he bowled the next nine for only 18 runs. It was a magnificent performance, for never once did India's batsmen trust themselves to get after him as Tendulkar had done. Australia's fourth matchwinner was Taylor, the captain, who set the tone of their innings with

59 runs and handled the side in the field later with a master's touch. These were all proper cricketing skills exercised in a one-day game.

Although Australia were to enjoy an even more remarkable victory over West Indies in the semi-final at Chandigarh, this was the best day of the World Cup, and it was never better than during that glided early evening when one great player, Warne, was bowling to another. Ten-

dulkar, as an excited crowd watched agog.

At least one person returned to his hotel that night intoxicated by what he had seen, grateful to have been present and resolving never to forget. At such times this job seems the best in the world.

FORWARD
Andrew Longmore on the day a champion was broken on the Tour de France

Young blades head down under

BY MEL WEBB



It was a dank December day and the Thames was not blue, sparkling waterway as it is during the balmy days of summer. It was not the best of choices to be in there, but it was the only choice to be had in the water. Why were those 20-odd frolicking young chaps messing about on the river on that miserable morning? Were they performing some act of minimal contrition? They were not — they actually needed to be there. They were members of the rowing club at King's College School, Wimbledon. They were voluntarily signing up a week of their Christmas holidays to prepare the high spot of their young 'ling lives. Then KCS was founded, it was situated in The Strand in London, but in 1877 moved out of site on Wimbledon Common. It lives there still, and as it is its centenary next March is sending 25 oarsmen from the New Zealand schools to compete on Lake Tapiro in North Island. Organised schools rowing in New Zealand is 50 years old this year, and the hosts are British schools from Canada, United States, South Africa, Australia and Japan as well as KCS, the only British school making the trip. The 15- to 17-year-olds and 15 oars — will compete in the Padi Cup, the New Zealand national trophy. Heats start March 18 with repechages and semi-finals to follow. A New Zealand final and an overseas final will be followed by the first three teams in each being in an international competition, competing for specially fitted commemorative medals. After the championships

school," he said. "Rowing has been a sport for life for me and, if I can give the boys the wish to carry on when they get out into the world, I'll be well content."

Brook is also anxious that the team does not spend all its time in New Zealand in the grim business of international competition. "On a tour of this nature, it is important that the boys and the four staff experience all New Zealand has to offer," he said.

"We'll be doing some sight-seeing, which will include white-water rafting, jet boating, air safaris and whale watching, as well as visits to cultural centres in Auckland and Rotorua." Hectic it might be, a little tiring, even. Boredom, however, does not seem likely to figure on the agenda.

The school has a long tradition of rowing, but one of the most important moves to raise its profile was the purchase, in 1993, of the Barclays Bank boathouse, which is now the base for the Cambridge University crew in the Boat Race. Brook took over the rowing programme in 1989 and has since guided school teams to ten gold medals, one silver

and two bronzes in the national schools' championships. Brook is developing sculling as a speciality, and has his sights set on the Fawley Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta as well as hoping to form an VIII to race at championship level and compete in the Princess Elizabeth Cup there. The school has dipped generously into the coffers for the boys to make this journey, but it is likely that it would have been possible without the commitment of an energetic parents' support group, which has raised more than £20,000 for the tour.

"The parents have been tremendously supportive," Brook said. "They have been a vital part of our success in recent years." As he spoke in the upstairs bar of the boathouse, boys were lowering themselves into the water with a palpable air of enthusiasm.

Christmas was coming — but out there on the grim, grey Tideway, turkey, crackers and holly were a million miles from the thoughts of those youthful enthusiasts. In their minds' eye, they were already on the other side of the world.

JULIAN HERRBERT

Ready substitute for trust funds

Everywhere you go at the moment, someone seems to be building a new stadium or adding bits on to one. Wembley, Newcastle, Sunderland, Charlton, Bramall Lane in Sheffield, next door to Elland Road, in Leeds. All this activity, however, is centred on the richer football clubs in the top two divisions and the national team. Down in the lower divisions, it is pretty tough.

Last week it became tougher. The Football Trust, which takes money from the football pools companies and gives it to clubs so that they can comply with the Taylor report, ensuring all-seater stadiums, is running out of cash. Because of the National Lottery, there is less spending on the pools. According to Richard Falkner, the vice-chairman of the trust, it had expected about £200 million between 1990 and 2000. Now it has revised this forecast down to £165 million, £150 million of which has already been spent.

The trust has now imposed a moratorium on payments. "We had hoped to implement the Taylor report throughout



the divisions," Falkner said, "but we are now faced with such a shortage of money that, unless something materialises quickly, that is not going to be possible." So what can be done? The annual survey of football club finances by the accountants, Deloitte & Touche, showed that the difference between rich and poor in football is even more marked than between the beach haciendas and the slums of São Paulo. Most lower division teams live a hand-to-mouth existence, relying on the crumbs from the Premiership table by way of transfer fees (under threat already because of the Bosman ruling) and cup-ties. For those that have not already had their development

grant, the idea of spending £220 million on rebuilding Wembley or £65 million moving Newcastle United half a mile up the road from St James Park to Castle Leazes is as remote as an away fixture at Carlisle United.

There could, however, be a solution. Richard Baldwin, of Deloitte, has lobbied the Government long and hard about the issue of tax relief on football stands. If Torquay United were a leisure company and decided to build a hotel, it could write off the cost of the building against its tax. If that hotel had sporting facilities, they would be allowable against tax as well. However, the cost of building a new stand at Plainmoor would not be allowed, despite it being essential for Torquay's business. Indeed, the £120 million grant being given to Wembley for its rebuilding is actually going to lead to the Government getting £20 million more in tax just from its construction.

On the face of it, granting this tax relief for building stands would do no good, as these struggling clubs have no taxable profit to offset the tax

against, but the trick is to strike a fairly run-of-the-mill leasing deal with a bank or finance company which can use the tax relief, so saving about a third of the cost of the building.

The concession needs only to be in place for three to five years, allowing the shortfall in the Football Trust income to be made up. By then most of the building work would have been done and the Government could go back to its rather unsympathetic attitude towards sporting facilities.

The argument against this move is that it would reward the big clubs more than the small ones. For example, Newcastle United would be able to claim back £20 million in tax on its Castle Leazes scheme and Sunderland would receive a £5 million cheque to help its move from Roker Park.

However, if this is the cost of saving a quarter of British football clubs from bankruptcy and avoiding another disaster such as Hillsborough, then is it not a price worth paying?

JASON NISSÉ

CYCLING: MARKETING POST TEMPTS BRITISH CHAMPION AND RECORD-HOLDER

Lillistone lured into surprise retirement

SIMON LILLISTONE, one of Great Britain's most consistent track internationals, announced his retirement from racing at the age of 31 on Saturday night (Peter Bryan writes). Lillistone, the winner of a record six national points race titles, made his last appearance in the midnight madison, in Manchester. A mainstay of the national track team over the past eight years, Lillistone has been tempted away by the offer of a senior marketing post with an American crash helmet manufacturer. Lillistone, from Shrewsbury, who has just returned from

training in Australia, said: "It was a difficult decision, but I am retiring as a British champion and record-holder."

He fought hard to end on a winning note in the 50-kilometre madison, but could not match the sprinting speed of Peter Pieters and Rob Slippers, the Dutch professionals, who scored a clear victory over the Anglo-Danish pairing of Jon Hargreaves and Michael Sandsted. Lillistone and Mattat Pronk, his Dutch partner, were third. Earlier Manchester had failed to become the first British city to score a match

win in the five-week Euroleague series. Going into the final event, the motor-paced keirin, Manchester led by a single point from Zurich. Peter Jacques, the British keirin champion, was expected to clinch the match, but, while fighting for pole position with Rob Jefferies, of London, they tangled and fell. The judges disqualified Jacques and Jefferies, leaving Zurich to score an easy match victory.

Andy Wilkinson beat Cedric Flasse, the Belgian champion, on his international track pursuit debut, winning their 4,000 metres match by 4.06sec in 4min 41.99sec.



The KCS first and second Vllls take training seriously on the Thames last week

Bruising

Sally Jones saddles up and joins the Pony Club for the long countdown to the Horse of the Year Show

The junior cavalry prepare to charge

The packed Wembley arena erupts into a deafening cacophony of high-pitched cheering as half-a-dozen excited ponies gallop down the ring like cavalry chargers. Their young riders throw themselves off and sprint along a row of "stepping stones" (up-turned buckets) before vaulting back into the saddle and galloping for the line to hand over to the next member of the team. One boy accidentally knocks over a bucket and has to renegotiate the line, losing his team precious seconds in the process, while the parents, coaches and hundreds of small, frantic supporters cheer themselves hoarse.



After the display of bending, sack races, flag races and the like, given by youngsters from the Cheshire Hunt and their Rockwood Harriers, including two tiny nine-year-olds on frisky greys. I was lent Troy, and shown the intricacies of the rope race. In this, two competitors canter side by side, holding a short rope between them as they weave in and out of bending poles. At the far end of the arena, one of the pair lets go of the rope, allowing another rider to take his place. The new pairing then "bends" back down the row of poles to the other end, where the final team member is waiting to take the place of the original rider.

Once I was paired with the rider of one of the tiny greys, I discovered the problem of getting two different-sized ponies to canter together at the same speed and of persuading the pony on the outside of each bend to go faster to stay level. First I kicked Troy into too fast a canter, let go of the rope and had to return to where the break occurred. I then neck-reined him across into one of the poles, sending it flying (in a real race, I would have had to replace it myself to avoid disqualification). Troy and my young partner kept their tempers and we finished with a flourish.

Next came the stepping-stone race. I watched in awe as Andrew galloped his pony at full speed to the line of buckets, threw himself off, still at a gallop, and tiptoed along the line, while the pony trotted beside him. He vaulted back on with ease and galloped for the finish, completing the entire leg inside ten seconds. My first attempt was far more demure. "Vault off sideways," Andrew suggested,

"there's no time for a formal dismount — and keep the pony trotting beside you while you run along the buckets, counting them as you go to get the rhythm. The moment you're off the last one, vault back up. No, don't hop about like that; keep facing forwards and bounce up with both feet from just ahead of the saddle, gripping the mane with your left hand and the front of the saddle with your right then swing your right leg over his back and go for it." After much hopping and swinging, I achieved a vault

and knocked over only two stepping-stones. "Passable with about five years' hard practice," came the verdict. "What I love about it is the competition," Andrew said. "Lots of friendly rivalry. Some parents make a lot of sacrifices for their children to compete. My mum's a care worker and my dad's in the motor trade and they've been really supportive. I want to be an RAF pilot and fitting in my riding is pretty tough, but it's been worth it; going to Wembley was one of the greatest weeks of my life."

It is a typical scene from the final night of the Prince Philip Cup, the Pony Club mounted games championship, when the knowledgeable Horse of the Year Show crowd, swelled by shrieking nine-year-olds, goes wild after the high tension and split-second precision of the week's showjumping championships.

This is the glamorous aspect of the sport, the mounted games equivalent of the Cup Final; athletic, steely-eyed 14-year-olds, most with spidery, adolescent limbs, dwarfing their tough, eager ponies, all drilled within an inch of their lives.

This month Robert Noble, a retired farmer, has already started his preparations for the 1997 competition with about 40 youngsters ranging in age from seven to 14 on rough-coated ponies, going through their paces on a beach at Ayr, for up to three hours, two nights a week.

By April Noble, the trainer of the Eglinton Pony Club side, which has dominated the event since 1976, winning the title for the past five years, will have picked two junior (under 12) and two senior (under 15) sides with five children in each.

"Selection day is the worst time of the year," he said, "because some of the children break their hearts when they're left out." Several of the lucky ones will have moved up from the junior A team last year to the senior B team, or from the senior B into the coveted A side, which will start among the favourites for the 1997 Prince Philip Cup.

It is easy for outsiders to scoff at mounted games as a "gungho free-for-all for the moneyed middle classes. In fact, says Noble, who started training the Eglinton side in 1976 when his 13-year-old daughter, Eunice, first took part, the participants come from a wide variety of backgrounds, many on leased or borrowed ponies.

"A good, well-trained pony will change hands for £1,500 to £2,000, sometimes double that, but a lot of the kids without that sort of money behind them train up their own ponies, often paying as little as £75.

"The beauty of mounted



Members of the Pony Club in action: mounted games such as this are the equivalent of the Cup Final for the young competitors

MILITARY LINKS

MOUNTED games such as "tent-pegging" and "bending" originated in the cavalry regiments as exercises to improve the chargers' obedience and flexibility and boost the riders' skill.

Soon after the Second World War the Duke of Edinburgh asked Colonel Mike Ansell, the director of the Horse of the Year Show, to devise a cavalry-type training suitable for children on ponies and offered a cup for the winning team.

The event has grown dramatically and now many of the Pony Club's 366 branches from its 19 areas within the United Kingdom enter senior teams for the area competitions each May, the first stage on the road to Wembley in the autumn. (The junior finals are staged at Weston Park, Shropshire.)

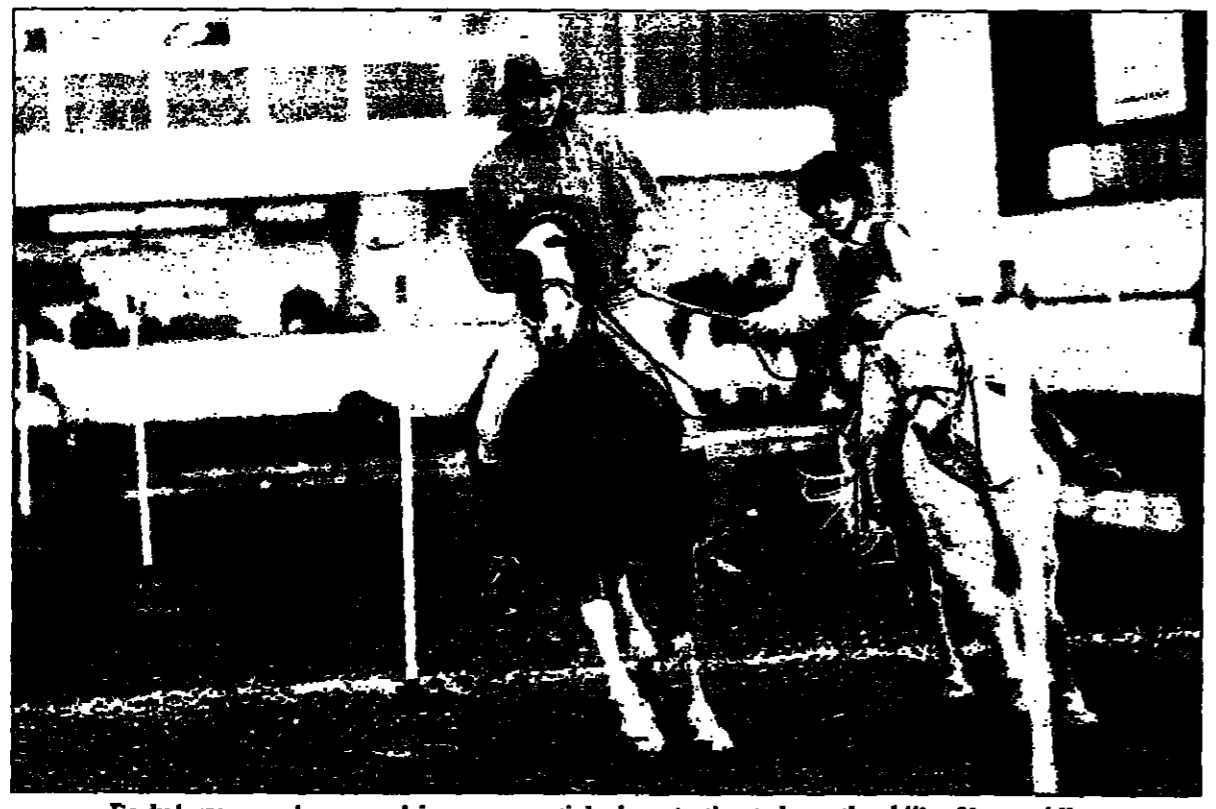
Meetings are staged under the eye of stewards who mark infringements. Competition is fierce, and the rules are observed with military rigour.

On one occasion the Prince Philip Cup itself was in the balance during the last event of the final, the flag race. With the top two teams separated by just one point, the last rider of the leading team thrust his flag only half-way into the flag-holder and, as he galloped for the finish, the flag began to topple out again. It fell just as he reached the line and the nearest steward adjudged that it had hit the floor a split second before the rider was over the line — a heartbreaking decision that cost his team the cup.

Occasional falls are inevitable but serious injury is rare. Races are usually stopped or re-run if anyone is injured. Event organisers carry out an inspection of clothing and tack before competitions to check that it is safe and properly fastened and riders must remove jewellery.

Competitors must wear jodhpur boots or long boots and light-coloured jodhpurs. A new standard riding hat, the PAS 015, has just been introduced, giving more protection to the side of the head. The hat is always worn with a chinstrap. Many trainers will refuse to accept a pony which is known to kick.

Welfare of the pony is a main consideration. Whips and spurs are not permitted in competition. Rough or dangerous riding is penalised and competitors must ride an appropriately-sized pony.



Early lessons under supervision are essential when starting to learn the skills of horse riding

NEWCOMERS are advised to have a series of lessons with a qualified instructor at a British Horse Society-approved riding school. If they enjoy the sessions and learn the basics of riding and stable management, the next stage is to buy or borrow a quiet pony and join the local branch of the Pony Club.

A few members hire ponies from riding schools, but few such mounts are lively enough to make good games ponies and the chance of regularly hiring the same pony is remote. Most youngsters involved in mounted games take part in other Pony Club activities, such as rallies, camps, safety training and sessions on riding and stable management.

Most branches organise regular mounted games practices, open to all

HOW TO START

levels. As they grow in skill and confidence, children gradually progress from "dunes" races, performed at a sedate trot, to the flat-out team events such as the Prince Philip Cup.

The annual Pony Club subscription is £22, with a £1 joining fee. This includes third-party legal liability and insurance.

A pony can cost anything from £75 for an unbroken novice to £5,000 for a top-class, "made" games pony with an impressive record at international level, although, he warned — buying an outstanding pony will not guarantee success unless the child rides well and builds a good rapport with the mount. Tack is often bought second-hand; a

saddle ranging in price from £70 second-hand to £250-plus new. A bridle costs between £25 and £50.

If you do not have your own paddock and stable, stabling and feeding cost between £30 a week for a do-it-yourself livery and up to £80 a week for a full livery. (This tends to be more expensive in the Home Counties and city areas than in the country.)

Vets' bills and shoeing can work out at about £700 a year and travelling to leading British competitions costs up to £1,000. A season's entry fees could come to between £60 and £100, depending on the number of competitions entered.

Riding kit (jodhpurs and jodhpur boots cost about £25 each, hats are around £35. Further information: the Pony Club, British Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, CV8 2LR.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Some readers may remember *The Bedside Book of Bridge*, published a couple of years ago. Aimed at the mass bridge market, this was a compendium of articles written by the famous and the not-so-famous on all manner of subjects related to bridge, admirably edited by Elena Jeronimidis. A recent publication, *More Bedside Bridge*, is more of the same. There are many entertaining and instructive articles; this offering, by Ron Klüger, the Australian expert, is entitled "Best Chances First". How would you play as South in 3NT on the hands below, after the lead of the three of spades?

Contract: Three No-trumps Lead: Three of spades

♠	K 8 5
♥	A K 10 7
♦	A K 3
♣	Q J 10 9
N	
W	E
♠	7 6 5
♥	Q 4
♦	9 8 4 2
♣	A 5 3 2

At the table, declarer went down quickly. He rose with the king of spades in dummy (correct, as the king is doomed unless the ace is with West). He then took the club finesse: that lost to West, who cashed four more spades for one off.

Declarer's play would have been right in 6NT, since in that contract four club tricks would be necessary. However, in 3NT, after the king of spades wins, declarer has eight top tricks (one spade, three hearts, three diamonds and one club). Only one more trick is needed, and that trick could come from diamonds (3-3 break or J 10 doubleton, making the nine high, or singleton jack or ten with West, setting up a finesse position against East); or from hearts (if the jack drops in three rounds); or from clubs (if

WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard**
- GALLOGLOSS**
a. Condemned man's drink
b. A mercenary
c. Hemp
- GREE**
a. A stork
b. Favour
c. An Amerindian
- FRISKET**
a. A printer's frame
b. A sparrow
c. Flummery
- FELAPTON**
a. A left-handed lyre
b. A Turkish slipper
c. A syllogism
- Answers on page 34

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's triumph

By his clear victory in the elite Las Palmas tournament, which ended over the weekend, Garry Kasparov has dispelled any doubt that he is the undisputed champion of the world. In a competition of the world's top six ranked players, facing each other twice, Kasparov won by a clear point, while Anatoly Karpov, the Fide champion, suffered the worst result of his career, finishing in joint-last place and failing to win a single game. Kasparov also enjoyed the pleasure of winning a complicated game against his rival.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Las Palmas, December 1996

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bd4
4	Ce2	0-0
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Cxc3	b5
7	Bg5	Bb7
8	e3	d6
9	f3	Nbd7
10	Nh3	c5
11	cx5	bxc5
12	Be2	Qb6
13	0-0	d5
14	Rd1	Bc6
15	N2	h6
16	Bh4	Ba4
17	Rc2	Bb3

Final crosstable at Las Palmas

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Kasparov	*	½	½	½	½	½
Anand	½	*	½	½	½	½
Kramnik	½	½	*	½	½	½
Topalov	½	½	½	*	½	½
Ivanchuk	½	½	½	½	*	½
Karpov	½	½	½	½	½	*

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Goldin - Horvath, Budapest, 1996. In this middlegame with the major pieces, White found a quick breakthrough on the queenside. Can you spot it?

Solution on page 34

1996-12-23

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Code	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
4.680	Alford Distillery	120.0	-			
1.150	Barclay's	130.0	-			
1.150	Barrons	130.0	-			
1.150	Barrons PLC	130.0	-			
1.150	Barrons PLC	130.0	-			
1.150	Barrons PLC	130.0	-			
BANKS						
11.500	ABN-AMRO	100.0	-			
1.150	Bank of Ireland	130.0	-			
1.150	Bank of Ireland	130.0	-			
1.150	Bank of Ireland	130.0	-			
1.150	Bank of Ireland	130.0	-			
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST						
1.150	Brewery	130.0	-			
1.150	Brewery	130.0	-			
1.150	Brewery	130.0	-			
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS						
1.150	Diversified	130.0	-			
1.150	Diversified	130.0	-			
1.150	Diversified	130.0	-			
ELECTRICITY						
1.150	Electricity	130.0	-			
1.150	Electricity	130.0	-			
1.150	Electricity	130.0	-			
ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
1.150	Electronic	130.0	-			
1.150	Electronic	130.0	-			
1.150	Electronic	130.0	-			
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
1.150	Building	130.0	-			
1.150	Building	130.0	-			
1.150	Building	130.0	-			
BUILDING MATERIALS						
1.150	Building	130.0	-			
1.150	Building	130.0	-			
1.150	Building	130.0	-			
ENGINEERING						
1.150	Engineering	130.0	-			
1.150	Engineering	130.0	-			
1.150	Engineering	130.0	-			
CHEMICALS						
1.150	Chemicals	130.0	-			
1.150	Chemicals	130.0	-			
1.150	Chemicals	130.0	-			

Code	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	PE
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES						
1.150	Engineering	130.0	-			
1.150	Engineering	130.0	-			
1.150	Engineering	130.0	-			
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
1.150	Food	130.0	-			
1.150	Food	130.0	-			
1.150	Food	130.0	-			
LEISURE & HOTELS						
1.150	Leisure	130.0	-			
1.150	Leisure	130.0	-			
1.150	Leisure	130.0	-			
MINING						
1.150	Mining	130.0	-			
1.150	Mining	130.0	-			
1.150	Mining	130.0	-			
PROPERTY						
1.150	Property	130.0	-			
1.150	Property	130.0	-			
1.150	Property	130.0	-			
TELECOMMUNICATIONS						
1.150	Telecom	130.0	-			
1.150	Telecom	130.0	-			
1.150	Telecom	130.0	-			
TEXTILES & APPAREL						
1.150	Textiles	130.0	-			
1.150	Textiles	130.0	-			
1.150	Textiles	130.0	-			
TRANSPORT						
1.150	Transport	130.0	-			
1.150	Transport	130.0	-			
1.150	Transport	130.0	-			
RETAILERS FOOD						
1.150	Retailers	130.0	-			
1.150	Retailers	130.0	-			
1.150	Retailers	130.0	-			
OTHER FINANCIAL						
1.150	Financial	130.0	-			
1.150	Financial	130.0	-			
1.150	Financial	130.0	-			
RETAILERS GENERAL						
1.150	Retailers	130.0	-			
1.150	Retailers	130.0	-			
1.150	Retailers	130.0	-			
WATER						
1.150	Water	130.0	-			
1.150	Water	130.0	-			
1.150	Water	130.0	-			
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET						
1.150	Alternative	130.0	-			
1.150	Alternative	130.0	-			
1.150	Alternative	130.0	-			
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 4%)						
1.150	Index-linked	130.0	-			
1.150	Index-linked	130.0	-			
1.150	Index-linked	130.0	-			

Code	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	PE
PHARMACEUTICALS						
1.150	Pharmaceuticals	130.0	-			
1.150	Pharmaceuticals	130.0	-			
1.150	Pharmaceuticals	130.0	-			
SUPPORT SERVICES						
1.150	Support	130.0	-			
1.150	Support	130.0	-			
1.150	Support	130.0	-			
PRINTING & PAPER						
1.150	Printing	130.0	-			
1.150	Printing	130.0	-			
1.150	Printing	130.0	-			

Award winning PC

Affordable prices

call now

Viglen

YOU'LL NEVER LOOK BACK



FOR YOUR FREE VIGLEN DIRECT GUIDE
CALL 0181 758 7000
 WEB <http://www.viglen.co.uk>

Walton
the Chu
plan fo

WE TO
MAGNIFICENT
GREEN ACCOUNT
OWNERS.

WAF

Walton takes on the Church with plan for centre

THE former owner of Aintree racetrack, home of the Grand National, is submitting plans to build Britain's fourth largest conference centre in the middle of Liverpool as part of a £200 million development.

The move, by Walton Group, headed by Bill Davies, the property developer, is to add fire to the battle to redevelop Chervasse Park, a stretch of land which links Liverpool city centre with Albert Dock, home of the northern arm of the Tate Gallery.

Walton's scheme is in competition with a £90 million plan, devised by Derrick Walters, the Dean of Liverpool, and supported by the city council, to put a technology and leisure centre on the site.

This project requires £24.6 million of lottery funding and has been put on hold by the Millennium Commission which wants to visit the site before making a final decision on February 11.

Table with financial data: CHANGE ON WEEK, THE POUND, US dollar, German mark, Exchange index, FT 30 share, NYSE Dow Jones, Tokyo Nikkei Avge.

Table with financial data: TOURIST RATES, Bank Buys, Bank Sells, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA, UK.



Geoffrey Simon, chairman of Wellington Market Company, which is raising £1 million for extra working capital by issuing new shares, put in some pre-Christmas trading at the weekend along with Judy Evens. His company owns and manages some 22 markets around Britain, including the original business in Wellington, Shropshire.

Bruntcliffe denies 'misleading'

BRUNTLIFFE Aggregates, which is being stalked by Bardon, its rival building materials group, may face a Stock Exchange inquiry after being accused of misleading investors in an announcement and press release issued last month.

Bruntcliffe's largest shareholders, in a dispute about the sale of some coal assets in the United States two years ago. However, on Friday, Dibb Lupton Alsop, M&G's solicitors, wrote to the Exchange saying that the actual ruling only allowed Bruntcliffe to recover \$100,000 of the money and the rest was still in dispute.

BT said to be in TV talks

BT has refused to confirm weekend reports that it is in talks over a £500 million digital television joint venture. Under the deal, BT and BSkyB (in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake), would take 30 per cent each.

BT said digital broadcasting was an obvious area of interest, but would not comment on the specific venture. A spokesman said: "We talk to a lot of companies all the time."

Growth market

The housewares and home furnishings sector is set to boom next year on the back of a steadily improving housing market, according to Verdict, the independent retail analyst. Research shows that the sector is enjoying a significant revival after the recession of the early 1990s.

Christmas shoppers are urged to protect their credit and debit cards after Home Office figures showing that pickpocketing is at its highest ever level. An average £490 is spent fraudulently with every stolen card.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Large table with columns for 1996 High/Low, Mid cap (million), Price, Why, Yld, P/E. Lists various investment options with their respective metrics.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

THE minutes of the monthly meeting that took place on October 30, between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, are published today. It was at that meeting that the two men decided they would raise base rates by a quarter point to 6 per cent.

Given the reluctance since that meeting by both men to discuss the monetary impact of sterling's sharp appreciation, the markets will be particularly interested to read...

NOTICE TO HALIFAX STUDENT CURRENT ACCOUNT CUSTOMERS. Halifax Building Society announces an increase in the rate of interest charged on Halifax Student Current Account unauthorised debit balances.

REGINA PLC (Incorporated in England and Wales with Registered No. 148786). Introduction to the Official List of the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Regina PLC sponsored by Keith, Bayley, Rogers & Co.

ICA FOREIGN FINANCIAL INC., Specialists in aircraft financing. ICA Foreign Financial Inc., structures and invests in single investor and leveraged leases for a variety of large ticket items.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Nightmare at Bruton Place

TO CELEBRATE the festive season, Sunday Business, the business weekly, had hoped to let rip in a room above Piza Express in Mayfair. But a rather large fly has made its way into the tomato and anchovy-flavoured ointment.

ROLAND CORNISH is going it alone, setting up a new merchant banking boutique after ten years at Brown Shipley. The 37-year-old former head of corporate finance is branching out to become chief executive and main board director of Nationwide Residential Properties.

All the Buzz

DISTURBING news from Harrison Willis, the City-based firm of executive recruitment consultants, who asked 100 finance directors what they would ideally like for Christmas.

Giveaway line

PR GALLS for Camelot have been rubbing shoulders with Diana, Princess of Wales. At a recent Christmas party, Louise White and Joanna Manning-Cooper summoned up enough courage, after 30 minutes of standing in the wings, to venture forth with the question: "Do you play the National Lottery, ma'am?"

MORAG PRESTON

No room for Santer at nation's bleak house

Dickensian attitudes in the workplace are returning, says Christine Buckley

When Bob Cratchit trundled off from the offices of Ebenezer Scrooge for his one-day Christmas holiday he was not alone. Miserly though he was, Scrooge was a typical early 19th-century employer.

More than 150 years later and the debate is still raging, particularly on the back of Europe pressing the UK to introduce a minimum 48-hour working week. Charges of Dickensian attitudes have been volleyed at the Conservatives who have fought to resist the European working time directive.

Moving on a little from the 1840s and some Labour historians would say we are not actually much further forward in working-time arrangements from the days when Tiny Tim may have been approaching retirement.

Mary Davis, senior labour lecturer at South Bank University's trade union centre, said: "Between 1889 and 1914 the



Scrooge saw the error of his ways but many of today's employers are still unenlightened

real campaign for the eight-hour day was conducted. But we are still nowhere near that. Bob would point out that it is not all gloom over working hours in the UK. He would, however, be uneasy that things seem the bleakest among his own kind - professionals and those working for small employers.

divergent pattern of working time as a series of unions have won industry and company-specific deals. Generally working hours are at their shortest in manufacturing, particularly engineering whose unions have always been at the vanguard of shorter hours.

proportion of men working more than 50 hours a week had increased from 20 per cent in 1984 to 28 per cent this year. Earlier this year the Joseph Rowntree Foundation identified long hours worked by fathers as the main cause of the blight on 1990s family life.



Arthur Scargill would find support abroad



Jacques Santer derides British 'sweatshops'

Rate-rise sting in growth tail

The United Kingdom is in a unique situation. It is the only industrialised country where economic growth is very strong, there is little spare capacity left, and inflation is already above the top of the central bank's inflation target.

When seeking the factors behind next year's strong growth, monetary policy is playing a key role. It is always difficult to gauge how stimulative or restrictive monetary policy is, but currently all indicators point in the same direction.

below the 1980s business cycle average. Second, consumer and mortgage credit are both increasing at a strong pace. And third, the key interest rate sensitive sectors - cars, housing and consumer durables - are all buoyant.

From an investor's perspective, it is important to recognise that it is the growth environment that will drive monetary policy, not the nearer-term inflation readings. This was made crystal clear by the monetary tightening in late 1994, when base rates rose 150 basis points.

WORD-MATCHING section with answers and clues for words like GALLEGLASS, FRISKET, and FELAPTON.

Underlying inflation is a full percentage point higher than it was when the 1994 monetary tightening started, and every direct measure of spare capacity is tighter now than it was then. So, we should expect base rates to reach at least 7.5 per cent by the end of next year.

Recalled for Christmas

Dear Diary, Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am. Miles Kingston makes amends for what the creators of famous fictional characters failed to do - confront them with Christmas.

The Jericho Players, Radio 4, 7.45pm. In one respect, Bernard Kops's play about itinerant Jewish actors in early 20th-century Russia sits echoes of Fiddler on the Roof.

- RADIO 1: 7.00am Dave Pearce 8.00 Simon Mayo... WORLD SERVICE: All times in GMT. News on the hour... CLASSIC FM: 4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Miles Reid... VIRGIN RADIO: 6.00am Jeremy Clark 10.00 Graham Dene...

Advertisement for Crisis charity: 'Will you give Mary a bed this Christmas?' Includes a photo of a woman and details about the service.

- RADIO 3: 6.00am On Air... RADIO 4: 5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News 6.15 Morning 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today...

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.9-99.5, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.0, LW 188, MW 132, 124.5-155.5, CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, LW 105.8, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1055, 1089, Television and Radio listings compiled by Peter Denny, Ian Highgate, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John Williams.



TRADING 33 Wellington in the market for more cash

BUSINESS

DIARY 34 Saatchi loses the taste for pizza party



MONDAY DECEMBER 23 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Christmas contrasts: lavish rewards for City dealmakers, bleak outlook for the jobless

Fees smash £1bn barrier

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

FEES earned by the City this year from takeover deals and other mergers will easily top the £1 billion mark for the first time, including bonuses to individual professionals that will create a raft of new millionaires.

be exceeded easily in 1996, according to Philip Healey, editor of Acquisitions Monthly, the specialist publication that produces a regular tally of takeovers and mergers.

Granada to its advisers, including heavy underwriting costs, ran to £120 million. Hanson's latest report and accounts includes a bill of £72 million for the demerger in the year to end-September, after £18 million charged for the previous year.

the £68 billion last year. However, in some respects this is an under-estimate because some £10 billion of deals under way will close in January or thereafter. These include the £1.3 billion agreed deal for London Electricity and the £2.1 billion agreed purchase of the ADT empire.

porate Finance, is making its own calculations. Stephen Barrett, UK head of mergers and acquisitions, said 1996 had been "an absolutely super year. We're all working at breakneck speed."

pushed ahead by the sheer complexity of some of the deals, such as the mergers between Lucas Industries and Varty of the US, and Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance.

Bonuses that say thanks a million

By JON ASHWORTH

ALL this frantic deal-making has spawned a healthy round of Christmas bonuses in the City, with some individuals looking to triple base salaries. A reputed £750 million is being shared among brokers and bankers, although firms are reluctant to give details.

wrong, although a few individuals will earn bonuses approaching these levels. Goldman Sachs does not comment on matters of remuneration. Guaranteed bonuses are featuring increasingly in the poaching of senior executives. Bill Harrison, former head of investment banking at Robert Fleming, is to receive a guaranteed minimum bonus of £1.25 million for signing up as chief executive of Barclays de Zoete Wedd (BZW). Swiss Bank Corporation recently set aside £70 million to reward executives and senior traders.

Ronnie Fox, a City lawyer specialising in remuneration, said that bonuses had been "very patchy", with some people doing exceptionally well, others receiving very little. British firms favour relatively low salaries coupled with large bonus elements, unlike the rest of Europe where high fixed salaries are the norm.

TUC reveals the plight of the 'forgotten army'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DESPITE four years of falling unemployment, there remains a "forgotten army" of 750,000 long-term unemployed people out of work for more than 12 months.

have even higher levels. The London borough of Hackney has 22 per cent of its jobless classified as long term. Long-term unemployment affects twice as many manual workers as white-collar staff, the unions' analysis shows. The TUC says these figures illustrate the impact of the recession of the early 1990s.

Northern poised to appeal over extension of CE bid

By MARTIN WALLER

IN the last skirmish of one of the most extraordinary City takeover battles ever seen, Northern Electric will this morning mount a last-ditch attempt to avoid defeat by CE Electric of the US by appealing to the Takeover Panel.

300,000 shares short of the required 50 per cent, said over the weekend that the total had reached 50.03 per cent. Even if no further acceptances arrive, this would allow the Americans to clinch the takeover, assuming no acceptances are revoked. However, Northern was meeting last night in preparation for an expected appeal to the panel, which governs the conduct of takeover bids. Its adviser, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, may make a similar appeal.

late to a £250,000 bonus payment to BZW sanctioned by Northern's board last week. BZW was unavailable for comment last night, but is reported to have denied any wrongdoing. The extension required the panel's blessing if the further acceptances were to be counted, and Northern is likely to argue that they should not be, or that the extension should not be allowed at all.



Sandy Lane, Barbados, where rooms cost up to \$2,000

Granada sells hotel

A CONSORTIUM led by Dermott Desmond, the Irish investor who owns London City Airport, yesterday clinched the £38 million purchase of the Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados from Granada. The Sandy Lane, with a book value of £26.6 million, is one of the most expensive hotels in the world charging up to \$2,000 a night.

International Distillers and Vintners, said that the packaging on Smirnoff Kosmir will be exactly the same as on a standard bottle of Smirnoff and that the new drink had already been vetted by the Portman Group, the industry's self-regulating body.

Alcoholic slush puppies on the heels of alcopops

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ALCOHOLIC slush puppies, iced fruit drinks with an added kick, are set to be the latest drinking fad as the brewing and spirits companies seek to capitalise on the current craze for alcopops.

International Distillers and Vintners, said that the packaging on Smirnoff Kosmir will be exactly the same as on a standard bottle of Smirnoff and that the new drink had already been vetted by the Portman Group, the industry's self-regulating body.

GrandMet is also experimenting with "shooters", single-shot cocktails that have proved popular in the US under the TGI Friday brand label. In the UK, the drinks are being tested as "New York Shots" with a mixture of flavours available. They include Blackhorse, which contains blackberry, cinnamon and peppermint.

NatWest suspends 18 staff

By OUR CITY STAFF

NATWEST has suspended 18 staff at the bank's insurance overshoot over allegations of trying to cash in illegally on next summer's stock market flotation of Norwich Union.

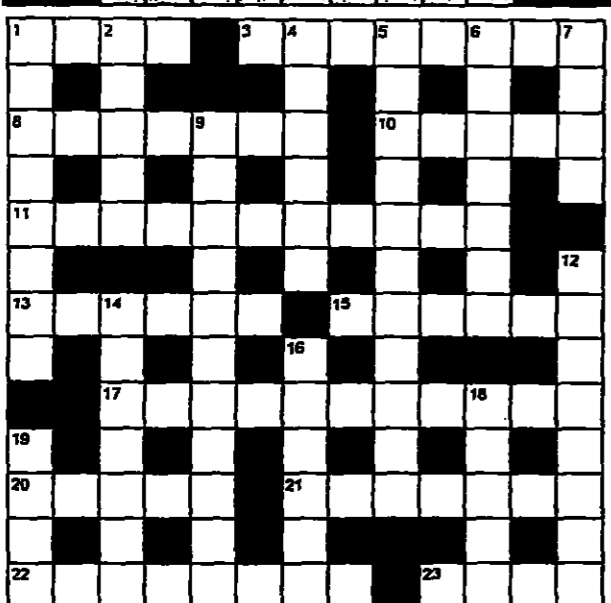
The Bank of England, the regulatory Personal Investment Authority and Norwich Union had been kept informed of the actions taken. It is suspected that the NatWest Insurance Services employees sold themselves Norwich Union policies after the flotation was announced and backdated the forms to be eligible for windfall bonuses expected to be worth a minimum £500 each.

Labour highlights the domestic angle

THREE million children face Christmas in a household where no one has a job, says the Labour Party, a figure that has risen 400,000, or 15 per cent, since the last general election (Philip Bassett writes).

Government ministers believe that people will realise the extent of economic improvement in Britain ahead of the general election, and this will be reflected in their votes. But Labour will today emphasise the continuing impact of unemployment, using figures such as the rising number of children in jobless households. Using figures compiled by the independent House of Commons library drawn from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey of a sample of 60,000 households, Peter Hain, Labour's employment spokesman, says up to 1.5 million jobless people have children, up 200,000 since the 1992 election.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 972

- ACROSS: 1 Thick, flat block (4); 3 Plantagenet - , Trolope's PM (8); 8 Important (7); incompetent (5,4); 10 Fabric with design (5); 11 Not warranted (8-3); 13 Foreigner as home help (2,4); 15 Take-off strip (6); 17 One pushing in out of turn (5-6); 20 Conscious (of) (5); 21 All the time the sun is up (7); 22 Tolerance: distance from equator (8); 23 Blood vessel (4); DOWN: 1 Unusual; a verb number (grammar) (8); 2 Mexican pyramid-builder (5); 4 Advanced GCE exam (1,5); 5 Most comfortable living conditions (3,2,6); 6 On which US down-and-outs are (4,3); 7 Meaningless repetition (4); 9 Aggressively hostile (1,1); 12 Lightest element (8); 14 Sharply stimulating (7); 16 Flexed (knee) (6); 18 Rise before baking; verify (5); 19 Loose scrum (4)

- SOLUTION TO NO 971: ACROSS: 1 Go places 7 Bimbo 8 Bastinado 9 Get 10 Ozen 11 Clique 13 Candid 14 Deacon 17 Canceled 18 Snip 20 Fee 22 Tied house 23 Shady 24 Hen party; DOWN: 1 Gobbo 2 Pastern 3 Axis 4 Enable 5 Image 6 Pontoon 7 Bouquet 12 Dignity 13 Confuse 15 Conquer 16 Scards 17 Cedar 19 Piety 21 Chap

- SOLUTION TO THE TIMES TWO CHRISTMAS JUMBO: ACROSS: 1 Shandy 4 Laughing up one's sleeve 6 Intergovernmental 17 Chronicle 18 Rebuilt 19 Granary 20 Not up to much 21 Wrongdoer 22 Climbers 23 Bluegeon 26 Sort out the men from the boys 30 Papaw 32 Mapping 34 Assured 36 Rally 37 Emigrant 39 Tweed suit 41 Trancer 42 Teacher 43 Ineptness 44 Nth degree 45 Melon 46 Overtax 48 Statue 50 Sinal 51 Steps in the right direction 57 Oriental 58 Mintened 59 Scrap iron 62 Rectangular 64 Treadle 66 Myxosis 67 Tortoise 68 Trooping the Colour 69 Percussion instrument 70 Estern

- DOWN: 1 Skid Row 2 Autobiographically 3 Derring-do 5 Avenger 6 Genoa 7 Iteration 8 Getysburg address 9 Paliniforms 10 Nisay 11 Strip club 12 Lemu 13 Excluded 14 Elephant 15 Post-mortem 22 Committee 24 Daydreamers 25 Sharp-tongued 26 Supperine 27 Hyperkinesis (Ha) 28 Electron microscope 29 Tyrrenian 31 Worthington 33 Great Expectations 35 Ditch 36 Torso 40 Unscathed 47 Tuti-fruti 49 Ear trumpet 52 Playgoers 53 Innkeeper 54 Capacious 55 Doorstep 56 Sincere 59 Sweeten 60 Nostrum 61 Blotto 63 Adieu 65 Denim

Go east for all the best breaks

THOSE not satisfied with the virtual two-week shutdown for the festive season in Britain this year might consider moving to Hong Kong, Indonesia, or even Mongolia. All three do significantly better when it comes to official days off (Martin Waller writes).

Select Appointments, the staffing services specialist, has made comparisons of time off as part of a review of world employment trends, particularly during the Christmas period. Hong Kong does well during the year as a whole with a total of 17 national holidays; links with Britain bring in two days for the Queen's official birthday and the usual Easter and new year breaks, and there are various Chinese festival days.

Granada sells hotel

A CONSORTIUM led by Dermott Desmond, the Irish investor who owns London City Airport, yesterday clinched the £38 million purchase of the Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados from Granada. The Sandy Lane, with a book value of £26.6 million, is one of the most expensive hotels in the world charging up to \$2,000 a night.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

forIncome We have been advising our clients nationwide since 1979 on how best to achieve their financial objectives.Growth Capital growth and an increasing income during retirement are essential to maintain your standard of living.or Both Our Brochure simply describes many different investments available today. It can help you decide where to focus your attention.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE Registered by the Financial Investment Authority from Young Ridgway & Associates Ltd

Form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Telephone No. and a logo for YRA.